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SUMMER 2026 — \$3.95



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Mexico Beach, FL

Malta
World Cup
Nova Scotia
Cunard Queen Victoria

Windsor-Essex County

Ohio Celebrates America's 250th



AMERICA WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT OHIO'S VAST CONTRIBUTIONS. JOIN IN CELEBRATIONS ALL YEAR LONG IN ALL OF OHIO'S 88 COUNTIES. EVERY MONTH, WE'RE EXPLORING A DIFFERENT WAY OHIO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO U.S. HISTORY — FROM TRANSPORTATION TO MUSIC TO THE MOVIES. VISIT AMERICA250-OHIO.ORG TO FIND EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES NEAR YOU AND WHEN YOU TRAVEL AROUND THE STATE.

Mark Your Calendar

Trails & Tales



Learn about Ohio's contributions to world history. Celebrate the origins of flight and space's earliest pioneers on the Ohio's Air & Space Trail. Be inspired by innovative artists, musicians, and others on the Creativity Trail. Discover how rivers, canals and Lake Erie shaped the state on the Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail. Get your creativity sparked on the Ohio Innovation Trail. Climb aboard Ohio's Transportation Trail to explore railroads, automobiles, airplanes that move the nation. Visit america250-ohio.org/trails-and-tales.

Murals Across Ohio

Ohio's walls tell meaningful stories. From colorful walls that celebrate hometown heroes to bold images that reflect local culture and innovation, murals are powerful expressions of community pride. Murals Across Ohio aims to honor the artists, the stories and the places that make Ohio unique. From the massive *Glass City River Wall* mural by Gabe Gault in Toledo to *Oxford Hive* by Joseph Prescher in Oxford, colorful murals can be found around the state using the interactive map on america250-ohio.org/murals-across-ohio.



Ohio's Homecoming & Picnic

Ohio's Homecoming & Picnic is an America 250-Ohio program with 150+ events where Ohioans will celebrate, reconnect and honor the nation's 250th anniversary. Learn more at america250-ohio.org/picnic.

Ohio Goes to the Movies

Movie stars Paul Newman and Clark Gable along with Oscar-winning director Steven Spielberg are just a few of the film industry celebrities who hail from Ohio. See them on screens around the state during Ohio Goes to the Movies through October 2026. More than 300 screenings are scheduled, featuring Ohioans in front of and behind the camera. The free ticketed showings feature fun elements like movie trivia, Q&A's, etc. Visit ohiogoes-to-the-movies.org for a complete schedule of films and locations.



america250-ohio.org



Join in the celebration of America's 250th anniversary during events held all year long in all 88 counties. From festivals and historical reenactments to art exhibitions and civic conversations, the events calendar is your guide to statewide moments of inspiration and celebration. Scan the QR code above for a complete calendar of events.



JULY 4 ★ Columbus Homecoming & Picnic featuring the Columbus Symphony

JULY 4 ★ Ohio Department of Resource's 4th of July Jubilee *Marblehead, Ohio*

JULY 8 ★ Sharing the Spirit of America – Statewide public reading of the Declaration of Independence

JULY 11 ★ Toledo Museum of Art Picnic

JULY 18 ★ Great Parks – Miami Whitewater Forest Harbor Homecoming & Picnic *Harrison, Ohio*

AUGUST 1-2 ★ Declaration 250 Festival *Put-In-Bay, Ohio*

AUGUST 15-16 ★ Revolutionary War Encampment *Portsmouth, Ohio*

There will be hundreds of events happening statewide through December 2026. Visit america250-ohio.org/events-calendar to find events near you.

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Clinical Psychotherapist

Dr. Sagggar is a qualified BA, MD, MACP, and RP (Qualifying). Member of OMAHP. Blue Angel Psychotherapy & Support Services is a testament to her lifelong passion for mental health and dedication to helping those in need. As a medical doctor and the sole founder, she witnessed firsthand the struggles of patients with mental health concerns and the limitations of conventional medical approaches in addressing these issues. This observation, coupled with her intrinsic passion for mental health nurtured since high school, propelled her to pursue a master's in psychotherapy and follow a path of dedicating her life to the aid of others. *Services are offered in person or online. Call today for your free 15 mins consultation.*

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BY RENU SAGGAR

with the Marquette County Fourth of July *Sensory Friendly Laser Show*. Recognized as the largest architectural laser show in North America, the event offers an alternative way to celebrate Independence Day with synchronized lights and music projected across the Ore Dock. Designed to be inclusive for children and individuals with sensory sensitivities, the event has become one of the area's signature summer attractions.

Music fans can continue the celebration at the *Hiawatha Music Festival* from July 17–19 at Tourist Park. The longtime festival features bluegrass, folk, Cajun, Celtic and acoustic blues performances, along with workshops, dance sessions and jam opportunities throughout the weekend.

Cyclists looking to experience the Upper Peninsula on two wheels can participate in *Tour Da Yoop, Eh* from July 24 through August 2. The multi-day cycling event covers approximately 1,200 miles throughout the Upper Peninsula, with routes passing through communities including Marquette County, Houghton,

Summer's in the Air in Marquette

Along the shores of Lake Superior, Marquette County, Michigan offers a standout lineup of summer events paired with endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, waterfront festivals and community celebrations. With 83 miles of Lake Superior shoreline, hundreds of inland lakes and nearly 350 miles of hiking and biking trails, Marquette County combines natural beauty with a packed calendar of activities for visitors of all ages.

Marquette County Trails Fest, a weekend dedicated to celebrating the region's extensive trail network, helps kick off the season, taking place this year from June 26–28. The event features mountain bike races, trail races, hiking opportunities and community gatherings in support of the *Noquemanon Trail Network*. Visitors and locals alike can participate in outdoor activities while experiencing the trails that have helped make Marquette County a premier Midwest outdoor recreation destination.

Fourth of July festivities return to Marquette County with the *Freedom Festival* on July 3–4 at Mattson Lower Harbor Park. Hosted by the Marquette County Exchange Club, the waterfront festival features local and ethnic food vendors, beverages, live entertainment and family-

friendly activities along the Lake Superior shoreline. On July 3, visitors can also experience the *Marquette County Fireworks Show*, a longtime Independence Day tradition held over Lake Superior. Launched from the historic Lower Harbor Ore Dock, the fireworks display draws thousands of spectators to the waterfront each year. The holiday weekend continues on July 4



Ore to Shore Race

Grand Marais and Sault Ste. Marie. Riders can choose from single-day, multi-day or full-route participation options while supporting Upper Peninsula Lions childhood cancer programs.

Art on the *Rocks Festival* returns July 25–26, bringing more than 140 artists and thousands of visitors to the Lake Superior waterfront between downtown Marquette County and Mattson Lower Harbor Park. The juried art festival showcases fine art, handmade goods and local creativity in one of the region's most scenic outdoor settings.

On July 31, downtown Marquette County hosts the annual *Blueberry Festival*, a community tradition celebrating the beginning of blueberry season. Visitors can enjoy live music, local vendors and blueberry-themed foods and beverages, including fresh berries, baked goods and specialty drinks.

Outdoor recreation continues into August with the *ORE to Shore Bike Race* on August 8. Known as Michigan's largest point-to-point mountain bike race, the event takes riders through rugged Upper Peninsula terrain and scenic forest landscapes while drawing participants from across the Midwest.

Summer wraps up with *HarborFest* from August 27–29 at Mattson Lower Harbor Park. The family-friendly event features live music, food vendors, children's activities and entertainment, with proceeds benefiting local nonprofit organizations throughout Marquette County.

Downtown Marquette County comes alive during *Music on Third*, held on the third Thursday of each month from July through September. Third Street fills with live music, local vendors and extended shopping and dining hours, giving visitors a chance to experience the destination's downtown atmosphere during the summer season.

As fall arrives, Marquette County transitions into a full lineup of seasonal events surrounded by Upper Peninsula fall colors.

The *U.P. Fall Beer Festival* returns to Mattson Lower Harbor Park on September 12. The annual event features more than 500 craft beers from over 85 Michigan breweries, along with live music, local food vendors and views of Lake Superior.

Outdoor recreation remains a focus during the *Marquette County Fall Enduro* from October 2–4. The mountain biking event challenges riders with multiple downhill stages through the South Trails while showcasing the area's fall scenery.

The *Lake Superior Performance Rally* returns October 9–10, bringing drivers and spectators to the region for high-speed rally racing through forest roads lined with peak fall foliage.

The following weekend, the *UP 200 Dryland Dash* takes place October 10–11 at Negaunee Township Hall Park. The dryland sled dog race features teams competing with wheeled rigs, scooters, bicycles and canicross setups while visitors enjoy food trucks, vendors and family-friendly activities.

Film and outdoor enthusiasts can gather for the *Fresh Coast Film Festival* from October 15–18. The event celebrates the culture, environment and outdoor lifestyle of the Great Lakes region through documentary film screenings, filmmaker discussions and guided outdoor experiences throughout Marquette County.

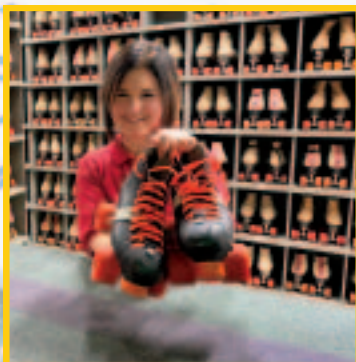
From outdoor recreation and live music to waterfront festivals and fall events, Marquette County offers visitors a full season of activities along the shores of Lake Superior. Whether planning a summer getaway or a fall weekend trip, travelers will find plenty of ways to experience the energy and natural beauty of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Visit TRAVELMARQUETTE.COM for more information. 🍷



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Tibbits Opera House



BY RENU SAGGAR

and sand volleyball.

Horse-lovers can enjoy scenic trail rides and peaceful countryside views at Hidden Ponds Horse Rescue, with three beautiful ponds, over 78 pristine acres to explore, plus exciting barrel and trail rides.

Train enthusiasts won't want to miss a scenic ride aboard Little River Railroad's historic steam engine. Seasonal excursions aboard the locomotive wind through peaceful countryside, offering a relaxing journey reminiscent of rail travel's golden age. From It's a chance to unplug, settle into a wooden (or plush) seat and simply watch the world roll by.

Festivals & Celebrations

Coldwater Country comes alive with seasonal events celebrating food, music, heritage and community traditions!

Hops on Monroe

Throughout the summer, downtown Coldwater hosts Hops on Monroe, a weekly beer

Explore Southern Michigan's Coldwater Country

Nestled in south-central Michigan near the Indiana border, this charming region—home to Coldwater, Bronson, Quincy, Union City and the surrounding areas of Colon, Athens and Allen—is made for unforgettable seasonal getaways.

From sparkling lakes and warm summer nights to festivals, scenic drives and colorful autumn weekends, Coldwater Country is filled with outdoor adventure, lakeside allure, bustling festivals and small-town charm.

Whether you're craving laid-back lakeside lounging, festival-filled weekends, wandering through antique shops, catching a drive-in movie under the stars or enjoying a live theatrical performance, Coldwater Country invites visitors to savor the seasons!

Water & Outside Adventures

With more than 100 beautiful freshwater lakes, Coldwater Country offers endless ways to enjoy the great outdoors. Paddle along the peaceful Union City Heritage Water Trail, hop aboard a pontoon boat and cruise the North and South Chains of Lakes in Coldwater or drift while casting a line for a day of bass, perch, bluegill and walleye fishing.

Cyclists can explore rolling countryside along scenic 15- and 20-mile routes, lined with blooming wildflowers and bright green fields, while golfers can tee off at courses across the region, including the one-of-a-kind 9-hole Iyopawa Island Golf Course, where peaceful lake views, lush fairways, and a distinctive layout make every round feel like a breath of fresh air.

For family-friendly water fun, head to the Aqua Pit, an outdoor water park Hydro Zone inflatables, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and a beachy area with cornhole, horseshoes



Hoptoberfest

garden featuring Michigan's top craft brews, local food trucks, yard games, live music under the stars and a friendly vibe that's perfect for families, friends and beer lovers.

Bronson Polish Festival

Each July, Bronson showcases the community's rich Polish heritage through lively polka music, bustling street vendors, baseball tournaments, a festive parade and of course – a mouth

watering spread of home-cooked Polish favorites!

Colon—the Magic Capital of the World

For nearly 90 years, magicians from around the world have gathered there for the four-day magic festival in August. Discover spellbinding performances, quirky shops and magical experiences that make this small town truly extraordinary.

Hispanic Heritage Festival

September brings vibrant music, dancing, food, and cultural celebration as the community honors Hispanic Heritage Month with a colorful festival full of energy and tradition.

Apple Fest & Craft Show

Fall arrives in full force at this downtown Coldwater festival, which features over 200 unique vendors, freshly-grown apples, cider donuts, mouth watering food trucks and a legendary pie-eating contest.

Farm to Fork Event

In September, Union City shuts down main street to host a community harvest table, plus pedal tractor pulls, craft vendors, pumpkin painting, a pie auction and live entertainment at the annual “Farm to Fork” event.

Hop Over to Hoptoberfest

Coldwater celebrates their German heritage during Hoptoberfest, a lively street festival that features Oktoberfest beers, German-inspired food and live entertainment.

Classic Family Fun & Nostalgic Attractions

Coldwater Country is filled with timeless attractions that bring generations together.

Adventure Zone

Putt your way through a lively mini golf course. Challenge the grandkids to a laser tag showdown. Test your reflexes in a laser maze, roll a few frames of the smaller (and lighter) duckpin bowling or wander through a vibrant arcade filled with both nostalgic favorites and new interactive games.

Capri Drive-In Theatre & Short’s Root Beer Stand

Spend an evening at the beloved Capri Drive-In Theatre, one of Michigan’s last remaining drive-in theaters. With twin screens and space for nearly 1,000 cars, it’s a timeless way to enjoy a double feature beneath the stars. Bring a blanket, tune

in your radio and enjoy an old-fashioned movie night.

Before the show, stop at Short’s Root Beer Stand, where car-hops still serve burgers, hot dogs, crispy fries and frosty mugs of root beer under a vintage canopy.

Tibbits Opera House

Built in 1882, the elegant Tibbits Opera House is the second-oldest operating theatre in Michigan. From a full slate of tribute concerts and comedy to a summer filled with professional theatre, an evening here feels wonderfully classic—ornate details, rich curtains and the shared joy of live performance.

The Skate Ranch

For a dose of retro fun, head to The Skate Ranch, a family-owned favorite for nearly five decades. Glide across the maple floor under disco lights, enjoy classic arcade games and relive the carefree energy of small-town Saturday nights.

The Children’s Museum of Branch County

Located in the heart of downtown Coldwater, the museum adds hands-on learning and imaginative play, giving young explorers plenty of space to move, create and burn off energy after a long day of traveling.

Art, Antiques & Small-Town Discoveries

Creativity and history are woven into the everyday experience of Coldwater Country, where murals and sculptures surprise and delight at every turn.

In Quincy, a single postcard mural welcomes visitors, while nearby Bronson features a cluster of several vibrant works that add color and character. In Union City, a historic-style mural pays tribute to an old advertisement while quietly honoring the community’s connection to the Underground Railroad, blending art with powerful history.

Coldwater itself offers a treasure hunt of creativity, with a growing collection of murals tucked into alleyways, brightening unexpected spaces and celebrating local life – from birds painted near the post office to a large-scale floral mural paired with a cheerful sunflower sculpture at the Children’s Museum. Playful and artistic touches continue with a wooden caterpillar sculpture near the library and another eye-catching giraffe across from the theatre, inviting visitors to explore, discover and experience art in all its forms.

Treasure-hunters will love the nearby Allen, known as the “antique capital of Michigan.” It’s home to several massive antique malls, including the impressive 25,000-square-foot Allen Antique Barn.

While you’re exploring, visit Amish and mom-and-pop shops across Branch County for handcrafted furniture, delicious baked goods, artisan jewelry and locally-made gifts.

Dining & Local Flavor

Refuel at one of Coldwater Country’s local eateries, from cozy diners and lakeside patios to international cuisine and gourmet BBQ. Whether you’re craving a quick bite or a sit-down dinner, there’s something to satisfy every palate.

Plan Your Trip

From sunny lake days and lively summer festivals to scenic fall color tours and cozy small-town charm, Coldwater Country is the perfect place to make lasting seasonal memories. Whether you’re planning a relaxing weekend or an adventure-filled escape, you’ll find plenty of ways to soak in the best of summer and fall in southern Michigan.

Start planning your trip at ColdwaterCountry.com for event details, travel inspiration and everything you need for an unforgettable getaway. 🍏





Back to the Bricks Classic Car Show

BY ADELINA IRVINE

athleticism, with multiple teams of all ages competing in a variety of basketball tournaments.

August really ramps up, featuring *Drop Fest*, an electronic dance music (EDM) festival, on August 8. Next, *Back to the Bricks* brings hundreds of classic cars to downtown Flint for a week long festival celebrating the city's automotive history. The festival starts with tours throughout Genesee County and culminates in a cruise up Saginaw Street. It's a must-go for classic and modern car lovers.

The cars are replaced with runners downtown Flint for the *HAP Crim Festival of Races*. August 21 and 22, the almost 50-year-old race will keep with tradition and feature the Crim 10-Mile, the Half-Crim 5-Mile, the Crim Family 5K, the Teddy Bear Trot and more! The

Experience Hometown Happiness in Flint & Genesee County

Festival season ramps up each summer in Flint and Genesee County, Michigan, and with the celebration of America's 250 underway, there are even more fun activities to explore in the heart of Michigan. In Genesee County, large-scale celebrations alongside small-town soirées contrast the region's breadth and locality. The county's celebration, led by the *Sloan Museum of Discovery*, includes a passport that encourages visitors to seek out several attractions throughout the region in pursuit of a commemorative coin. To help promote this, *Explore Flint & Genesee* reopened its downtown Flint visitor center on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Another pivotal event to celebrate America's 250 is at *Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad*. The turn-of-the-last-century village was created in 1975 to celebrate America's 200th anniversary. From May through September, you can visit the historic town, featuring renovated local buildings, including Michigan's oldest operating gristmill. It's a must-see for history lovers!

Other events around the celebration include the following: Davison, Michigan's *Woolley Festival*, sharing the history of animal life in America, Fenton, Michigan's Fourth of July *Fenton Freedom*

Festival, Swartz Creek, Michigan's *July Fourth Concert & Veterans Memorial* and Clio, Michigan's *Veterans Day Celebration*. Other Flint and Genesee County, celebrations will be held from May until September.

In June, the *Flint Art Fair* and the Sloan Museum *Auto Fair* are held June 12-14 and 27-28, respectively. Both events, are located in the *Flint Cultural Center*, showcasing the region's history and culture and automotive heritage.

July stays busy in Flint & Genesee. On July 11, *Flint Alley Fest* turns downtown Flint into a music and arts festival with multiple stages featuring regional bands, beer gardens and vendors, which is a lot of fun! Another event that captures the essence of Flint is the *Carriage Town Porchfest* on July 17. This massive block party features local musicians, food vendors and art.

Another fun event for the creative community is the *Really Cool Comic Con* at Dort Financial Center on July 18 and 19. Comics, toys, anime, video games, artists, special guests from your favorite shows and movies, gaming, cosplay and collectibles will be featured during the two-day event. Capping off the month, the *Gus Macker 3-on-3* Tournament, July 25 to 26, is a testament to Flint's

weekend also includes post-race party tents, vendors, live bands, yoga and family fun zones.

Finally, the *Ally Challenge* presented by McLaren is a PGA Tour Champion event at *Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club* in Grand Blanc, August 24 to 30. It also features a Keith Urban concert on Saturday.

Make your visit an experience by adding excursions and dining to the itinerary. There are many unique and delicious restaurants throughout Genesee County, including *Irene's Craft Kitchen & Biergarten*, featuring German-inspired food and *Golden Boy's*, a new fast-casual spot at the Flint Farmers' Market, opened by TikTok celebrity Ahmad Alzahab.

Add a few new activities to complete your experience. Check out one of the many Genesee County Parks—the largest county parks system in Michigan—like For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum, which has over 400 acres of trails, water and fun to explore. If you like shopping, visit one of the many downtown areas like Flushing with shops like Main Street Treasures, Just Julie's, and Evers & Ollie, a coffee shop featuring a small boutique.

This summer, there are plenty of ways to explore Flint & Genesee. Find your favorite way by visiting [ExploreFlintandGenesee.org](https://www.exploreflintandgenesee.org). 📍



From scenic golf courses to music festivals, art fairs, and classic car events, there's always something happening in Flint & Genesee during summer and early fall. Discover what makes Flint & Genesee a great place to spend the season.

ExploreFlintandGenesee.org

EXPLORE
FLINT & GENESSEE





BY RENU SAGGAR

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When you're looking for a more elevated experience that still prioritizes affordability, the *Comfort Inn & Suites* brand delivers. This brand focuses on the amenities that make a trip truly

relaxing. Unwind in modern, spacious rooms featuring plush bedding, ensuring a restful night's sleep after a day of adventure. Many locations boast indoor pools, a soothing way to cool off after a hot day in the sun.

Some hotels offer a complementary breakfast, which is an essential start to any day! Be sure to check out locations which offer pet friendly accommodations, perfect for those who travel along with their furry family members.

Cambria Suites offer design-forward accommodations. Indulge yourself with their upscale essentials which includes a state-of-the-art fitness center and spa-inspired bathrooms and premium bedding. Cambria Suites Traverse City is located in a charming coastal town which is ideal

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Relax & Live Happy in West Branch Michigan

Tucked into the heart of northern Michigan, West Branch is the kind of place that reminds you what life feels like when you finally slow down. Here, the days begin with fresh air and quiet mornings. The pace is gentler. The smiles are real. And the experiences linger long after the weekend ends.

For travelers searching for more than just another destination, West Branch offers something rare, a space to breathe, reconnect and rediscover yourself.

Whether you're sipping coffee on a peaceful lakeside deck, wandering wooded trails, this small northern Michigan town invites you to unplug from the noise and reconnect with what matters most.

Adventure lives naturally here. Spend the day exploring scenic trails or paddling the calm waters of nearby rivers and lakes. Cast a line into some of Michigan's most relaxing fishing waters. Camp under a canopy of stars at the beautiful *Rifle River Recreation Area*.

But West Branch isn't only about outdoor adventure — it's also about restoration.



There are so many lakes to explore in West Branch

This is a place where wellness happens naturally. Conversations are longer. Meals become experiences. Local restaurants and gathering places capture the warmth of the community itself. Enjoy handcrafted food and comforting hospitality that still feels personal.

The beauty of the area changes with every season. Summer brings kayaking, fishing and lake days. Fall paints the forests in brilliant reds

and golds. Winter transforms the region into a peaceful snowy retreat and outdoor recreation. Spring awakens the rivers and woodlands with new energy and life. Most importantly, West Branch offers something visitors often don't realize they've been missing, quiet moments that help you reconnect with yourself.

If you've been craving a break from the fast pace of everyday life, maybe it's time to discover the heart and soul of West Branch. Adventure, wellness, relaxation and small-town charm all come together here in a way that feels refreshingly real.

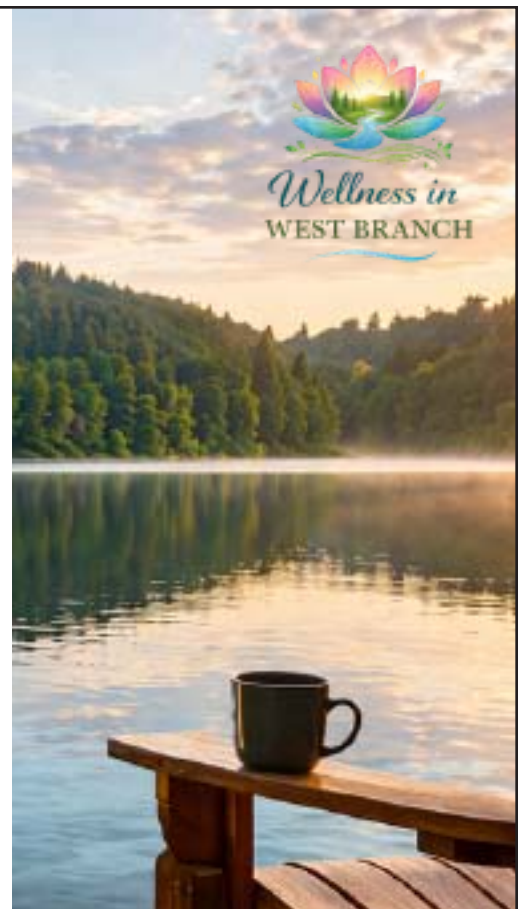
Your next great escape may not be far away — it may simply be waiting in West Branch. Go to VisitWestBranch.com for more information!

#findyourselfwestbranch #livehappy #wellnessinwestbranch

West Branch is more than just an adventure hub; it's a place for restoration. Here, wellness happens organically. The stress of everyday life melts away, replaced by genuine connections, longer conversations, and meals that are experiences in themselves. Local restaurants offer handcrafted dishes and a welcoming atmosphere that embodies the warmth of the community. Each season in West Branch brings its own unique charm. Summer invites you to enjoy kayaking and fishing, while fall transforms the forests into a tapestry of reds and golds. Winter offers a peaceful snowy retreat, perfect for cozy escapes and winter sports. As spring arrives, the rivers, trails, and woodlands burst with new energy and life. In West Branch, you'll find the quiet moments you've been missing.

Here, there are no endless crowds, no jam-packed schedules, and no pressure to keep up. It's a place where time feels fuller, and life is lived at a gentler pace.

If you've been longing for a break from the fast pace of modern life, consider this your invitation to discover the heart and soul of West Branch. With its blend of adventure, wellness, relaxation, and small-town charm, it offers an experience that feels refreshingly real. Your next great escape might be closer than you think — it could be waiting for you in West Branch.





Dennison Rail Depot Museum

BY RENU SAGGAR

Native American word *saandusti* which translates to “water pools within water” or can mean “cold water.”

While in Sandusky plan to spend a day at Cedar Point, considered by many to be the premiere amusement park for roller-coaster fans. It also has some wonderful, old-fashioned aspects such as the Cedar Point Railroad, which is featured on the America 250-Ohio Transportation Trail and a lighthouse which is on the Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail. While in town don't miss the beautiful Erie County Courthouse, originally completed in 1874, but significantly remodeled during the Great Depression of the 1930s with funds from the Works Progress Administration.

Celebrate America 250 in Ohio on U.S. Route 250

Stretching across the rolling hills and historic communities of eastern Ohio, U.S. Route 250 is more than just a roadway—it's a corridor that connects stories. From its early origins as part of the federal highway system to its present-day role linking small towns and regional hubs, Route 250 weaves through a diverse landscape of counties, cultures and local histories. In this story, we'll explore how the route developed, the communities it touches along the way and the unique character that makes this stretch of highway a meaningful thread in Ohio's broader story. Taking a trip on U.S. Route 250 is the perfect way to explore a slice of America 250 in Ohio which is focused on Ohio and Ohioans' contributions in shaping U.S. history.

A Brief History of U.S. Route 250

Established in 1928 as part of the early expansion of the U.S. numbered highway system, the original road ran from Norwalk, Ohio to West Virginia. By 1932, it was extended west to Sandusky and later its eastern endpoint in Richmond, Virginia.

In the 98 years since this historic, cross-state corridor has evolved and ties together Revolutionary War sites, industrial-era towns, cultural landmarks and natural scenery – making it a compelling lens for exploring Ohio's past and present.

The approximately 160-mile stretch in Ohio passes through eight counties:

Erie, Huron, Ashland, Wayne, Stark, Tuscarawas, Harrison and Belmont. It links communities such as Sandusky, Milan, Norwalk, Ashland, Wooster, New Philadelphia, Cadiz and Bridgeport, forming a continuous corridor from Lake Erie to the Ohio River.

Sandusky, Ohio-The Amusement Capital

Start your journey at the northernmost point of Route 250 in Sandusky (Erie County) where you will be less than a mile from the shores of Lake Erie.

Fun fact: the word Sandusky originated from the Wyandot

Other Sandusky points of interest include the Merry-Go-Round Museum (featured on the Ohio Creativity Trail), the Kalahari Resort, as well as many interesting shops, restaurants and bars along Lake Erie.

Milan, Ohio-Birthplace of Thomas Edison

This charming small community of Milan (pronounced MY-LIN) is the birthplace of American inventor Thomas Edison who was born in Milan in 1847, about the same time that the Milan Canal hit its peak in local commerce. Learn about Milan's contribution to history by visiting Edison's Birthplace and museum as well as the Milan Historical Museum – both museums are within an easy walk from the town square. So, park once and enjoy a delightful and inspiring afternoon exploring Milan.

Pro Tip: Both the Edison Birthplace and Milan Historical Museum are part of America 250-Ohio's Innovation Trail where you can learn about Ohioans inventions that impacted our everyday lives.

Norwalk, Ohio-The Maple City

As you head southeast on Route 250, you will come to Norwalk, Ohio. During the American Revolution, the British set fire to the town of Norwalk, Connecticut. Eighty of its eighty-six buildings were destroyed. Years later, the state of Connecticut granted land from its western reserve in northern Ohio as compensation to those who lost property from the fire. To learn more about the “fire sufferer lands”, that later became known as the “Firelands”, check out the Firelands Museum and Laning Young Research Center.

In 1815 Norwalk became the county seat in Huron County. Today the town is referred to as the “Maple City”, where history buffs may enjoy places such as the county courthouse, which sits along U.S. Route 250 and Norwalk's oldest house located in the West Main Street Historic District was built in 1826. Or stop and shop locally at one of the many charming businesses in this delightful community!

Side trip – Bellevue, Ohio

For a treat, take a short side trip from route 250 to Bellevue, Ohio to check out the Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum which showcases how railroads shaped American transportation, from early lines to the modern freight era. Guests can climb into locomotives and train cars to step onto history. Equipment on display includes the Nickel Plate Road 757, a Railway Post Office car and a Silver Dome passenger car. Artifacts and specialty equipment help illustrate evolving technology, safety and communication that moved people and freight.

As you get back on track, you will next head to Ashland, Ohio!

Ashland, Ohio-“World Headquarters for Nice People”

The City of Ashland is home to a university by the same name, so it combines the vibe of being a county seat, a college town with a thriving downtown that is often festooned with beautiful overhead banners. Ashland is also located at the point where U.S. Route 250 moves more easterly and links up with the historic Lincoln Highway on its way toward the Ohio River.

As you leave Ashland, you’ll want to stop at one of the area’s most famous shops – Grandpa’s Cheese Barn and Sweetie’s Chocolates. Featuring a truly wide assortment of cheeses (yes, samples are available!), plus snacks, sandwiches, ice cream and so much more. Bring your appetite!

Pro Tip: About six miles southwest of Grandpa’s Cheese Barn on Route 250 is the America 250-Ohio Barn Mural (if you are driving southeast, it will be on the left side of the road). This barn mural was the first in the America 250-Ohio barn mural series. If you’re looking for another quick side trip, the Johnny Applesed Barn Mural is not far – 2724 County Road 967 in Perrysville, Ohio.

Next Stop-Wooster, Ohio

The drive from Ashland to Wooster, Ohio (pronounced WUH-STIR) is very scenic with rolling hills and lovely farms. In Wooster, check out another truly charming downtown area with its shops, history and restaurants. Wooster was named for David Wooster, an American Revolutionary War General.

Pro Tip: Check out a local mural that is featured on America 250-Ohio’s Murals Across Ohio program. “Odyssey: The Art of Mentorship,” is a mural that features an augmented reality experience in downtown Wooster. The mural was a collaborative effort between Ohuddle, a school-based mentoring program, the College of Wooster, whose students coded the augmented reality experience and the Rose Company who hosts the mural. You can find the mural at 149 E. Liberty Street in Wooster.

Tuscarawas County Ohio-Native America

From Wooster, U.S. Route 250 continues southeasterly through the heart of Amish country and runs alongside the communities of Dover and New Philadelphia in Tuscarawas County. Here, like so much of Ohio, is where the American Indian narratives, specifically the Delaware (Lenape) and history are predominant. “Tuscarawas” is derived from a Delaware term translating variously to “old town” or “open mouth.”

Tuscarawas county is home to many places of historic significance, including Ohio’s only Revolutionary War fort, Fort Laurens, one of Ohio’s 50+ state-owned historic sites operated by the Ohio History Connection. Make time to visit Schoenbrunn Village, a living history site and the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, that served as a World War II canteen. It boasts a wonderful museum, train rides and several rail cars and engines on static display. Looking for a unique overnight experience? Book a room on the Pullman Car AirBnb not far from the Depot.

Another gem – right in Dover, Ohio is the Ernest Warther Museum & Gardens. Here you can see the carvings of Ernest “Mooney” Warther, who created sixty-four scales and working representations of steam railroad engines – a fascination that stemmed from his teen years. The Museum and gardens are his home and workshop, and you’ll find inspiration in his artistry. The Ernest Warther Museum & Gardens is on the Ohio Innovation and Ohio Creativity Trails.

Cadiz, Ohio-King of Hollywood’s Hometown

As you make your way toward West Virginia on Route 250, you’ll encounter the village of Cadiz, the Harrison County seat where actor Clark Gable was born in 1901. In Cadiz, you can visit the Clark Gable Foundation, which is the birthplace home styled in the furnishing of the day. Artifacts include one of Gable’s own automobiles, a classic 1954 Cadillac. For fans of the “King of Hollywood” it is worth a stop. The museum gives tours by appointment.

Ohio-West Virginia border

After Cadiz, enjoy a 45-minute scenic drive through the Appalachian region of Ohio to take you to Bridgeport where the Ohio portion of U.S. Route 250 concludes. Bridgeport, named for the bridge that crosses Wheeling Island, is a small village in Belmont County. While in Belmont County check out the Underground Railroad Museum, the Great Western Schoolhouse and the National Imperial Glass Museum (which is on the Ohio Creativity Trail).

You can continue along U.S. Route 250 all the way to Richmond, Virginia, but we recommend you continue your exploration of Ohio because there is so much more to enjoy in Ohio in 2026. 🇺🇸

Featured America 250-Ohio driving trail details can be found along with America 250-Ohio related events and experiences at america250-ohio.org.



Harvest Season in Ohio's Amish Country

Ohio's Amish Country is located in the heart of Holmes County, in the Appalachian foothills. The harvest season is rich in flavor, tradition and unforgettable experiences. From roadside stands brimming with garden-fresh vegetables to area wineries offering locally crafted wines to lively festivals and local heritage, summer and fall are among the most beautiful times to explore.

Driving the *Amish Country Byway* reveals a slower pace of life where horse-drawn buggies set the day's pace and family farms stretch across the countryside. Roadside stands overflow with sweet corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, apples, melons, homemade jams, farm fresh eggs, local honey and U-pick orchards. Savor the bounty of the season while supporting Amish families who have cultivated these lands for generations.

The region comes alive with festivals and events. Charm, Ohio hosts the annual *Doughty Valley Steam Show* in July with antique farm machinery and traditional demonstrations. Watch the working sawmill and threshing equipment in action, browse the flea market and cheer the horse pulls and tractor pulls.

The *Holmes County Fair*, held August 10th through 15th, features livestock shows, grandstand entertainment, local artisans



Seed to Spoon in Holmes County

and local crafts and exhibits.

As autumn colors paint the hillsides, the *Harvest Festival* in Berlin, Ohio, held September 11th and 12th, offers visitors a festive celebration with a rib cook-off and entertainment, capped off with the Harvest Fest Parade. October brings the *Ohio Swiss Festival* held October 1st through 3rd, honoring the region's Swiss heritage with music, parades, traditional foods and cultural activities.

No visit to Ohio Amish Country would be complete without time spent exploring family-friendly attractions like *Hershberger's Farm and Bakery* and *The Farm at Walnut Creek*. Feed the farm animals, browse handcrafted gifts, and indulge in fresh food and baked goods that have made these destinations a local favorite.

After a day of exploring, unwind in accommodations including cabins and cottages, charming bed and breakfasts and full-amenity hotels with swimming pools.

Whether you're searching for scenic back roads, authentic Amish culture, family fun or the flavors of the harvest season, Ohio Amish Country offers an unforgettable getaway filled with simple pleasures and timeless traditions.

Begin planning your adventure at visitamishcountry.com.



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Grand Lake is Made for Summer Memories

Summer in Ohio's Greater Grand region is how it should be! Laid back, affordable and full of small town charm. Families can boat, fish, hike, kayak, grab ice cream, explore local shops, enjoy lakeside dining or simply slow down by the water without breaking the bank. And those sunsets? Pure magic! They glow like something you would expect in Key West, but this is right here in Northwest Ohio. Easygoing, beautiful and made for summer memories.



Boardwalk at Lake St. Marys. Photo Credit: Ken Bigham

Some of the biggest summer events in Ohio's Grand Lake Region include the following: *Boardwalk Fest* June 19-20, *Governor's Cup Regatta* on June 20 -21, *Lake Festival* on July 24-26, *Wapakoneta Summermoon Festival* July 14-19, *Auglaize County Fair* on August 2-8, *St. Marys SummerFest* August 13-16 and the *Mercer County Fair* on August 13 -19. The *Celina Lake Festival's* theme for 2026 is Liberty on the Lake, America 250, which ties right into the national America's 250 Celebration, so it's going to be even more special!

What makes this area different is that it is not just the lake,

but the whole Grand Lake Region around it. You get boating, fishing, kayaking, camping, small towns, local restaurants, festivals, history, parks and some of the best sunsets & rises in Ohio. It feels relaxed and authentic, not overdone or overcrowded.

A first time visitor should definitely spend time on Grand Lake, whether that means boating, kayaking, fishing or just walking along the lake front. Strong recommendation, catching a sunset, visiting one of their local restaurants, checking

out the shops and downtown areas and if you have time, we suggest visiting places like the *Miami-Erie Canal* in downtown St. Marys, the *Armstrong Air & Space Museum* in Wapakoneta, *Fort Recovery State Museum* or *MVP Dairy*. You really get a great mix of lake life, history & family fun all in one!

A hidden gem is *Windy Point Park* over on the southside of the Lake in Montezuma. There is a nice little beach, playground, restrooms, great fishing spots, trails, picnic areas and nice jetty's extending over the shore as well. And let's not forget the amazing sunsets & rises! 🌅

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Grand Lake Region

Take a Journey Through Miami County's Past

Discover the stories of Miami County through events that bring history to life. From ancient traditions to the roar of vintage engines, each celebration offers insight into the people, places and moments that shaped the region. These immersive experiences invite visitors to step into the past while enjoying engaging activities designed for all ages and interests.

At the *Johnston Farm & Indian Agency*, the Celtic Heritage Festival explore centuries old customs through lively music, traditional games, historical reenactments and hands on activities. Experience the sights and sounds of Celtic culture while learning how early traditions influenced the area and daily life.

In Covington, the *Fort Rowdy Gathering* transports attendees back to rugged frontier days with encampments, demonstrations and living history experiences that honour early settlers and explorers.

Railroad history comes alive in Bradford during the *Bradford Railroad Heritage Festival*, where exhibits, storytelling and hands on displays highlight the importance of the rail era to local growth and industry. Visitors can explore historic equipment,



WACO Air Museum

hear stories from the past and experience the rhythms that once powered community life and commerce. Aviation enthusiasts won't want to miss the *WACO Celebration and FlyIn*, when historic aircraft return to the skies above Troy, celebrating the innovation, craftsmanship and adventurous spirit of early flight with aerial displays and activities on the ground.

Adding a more intimate glimpse into the past, the Troy Hayner Cultural Center hosts

Mrs. Hayner's Birthday Tea, a charming event that honors Mary Jane Hayner, the namesake of the Cultural Center. Guests enjoy tea, light refreshments and period inspired features while learning about the Hayner family, local history and the home's significance within the community. The event offers a refined look at social traditions of the era at one of Troy's most beloved historic landmarks.

Each of these events captures a different chapter of Miami County's rich heritage, connecting past and present. From blacksmith demonstrations to vintage planes and elegant teas, Miami County is not just remembered, it's celebrated. 📌

For more information on these Miami County events and others, please visit HomeGrownGreat.com.

EXPERIENCE THE *Rich History* OF MIAMI COUNTY



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Fulton County Ohio is Your Perfect Getaway

Discover the charm, excitement and unforgettable experiences waiting for you in Fulton County, OH — where history, adventure, entertainment and relaxation come together to create the perfect getaway.

From lively festivals and family fun to rich heritage and small-town hospitality, Fulton County offers something for every traveler. Experience affordable entertainment at the *Fulton County Fair*. Ohio's second-largest fair, features a midway, mouth watering fair food, a rodeo, a huge trade show and this year's headline entertainment including country music stars Dylan Scott and Copper Alan. The beautifully maintained fairgrounds host incredible events year-round, including the National Threshers Reunion, Crosley Car Show, Antique Motorcycle Show, horse and dog shows, the Gem & Mineral Show and the popular Midwest GeoBash. With convenient camping accommodations on site, it's the perfect destination for a memorable weekends.

Step back in time at *Sauder Village*, Ohio's premier living-history destination. Explore historic homes, farms, gardens, shops and even a Speak Easy. Interact with costumed guides



Bracy Gold Bison Ranch

and enjoy hands-on activities like butter making, goat milking and old-fashioned games. Open seasonally May through October, Sauder Village creates unforgettable family memories for visitors of all ages. Learn more at saudervillage.org.

History enthusiasts will also enjoy *Museum of Fulton County*, showcasing both local heritage and the broader American story. Continue exploring at the "250 Experiences on the

Yellowstone Trail & US 250-OH," the Fulton County Heritage Selfie Trail and the Quilt Barn Trail where you will discover scenic countryside, historic landmarks, charming boutiques, nostalgic antique shops, talented artisans and one-of-a-kind specialty stores.

Looking to unwind? Enjoy summer festivals, local restaurants, wineries and breweries. Feel the adrenaline at Oakshade Raceway, Delta Motorsports Park and Bracy Gold Bison Ranch.

Relax at convenient local accommodations, including Sauder Heritage Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Days Inn, Rodeway Inn, Tru by Hilton and welcoming local campgrounds.

Plan your next adventure today with www.visitfultoncounty.com, where unforgettable memories are waiting around every corner.





BY RENU SAGGAR

freshly made donut from *Point Break Donut Co.* and head to the beach to savor the richness and sunrise. When you're done at the beach, cool off with ice cream and nostalgic treats from either *Scoopalicious Ice Cream* or *Mexico Beach Sweets*.

Shopping in Mexico Beach is equally charming. Stroll the sidewalk-lined main street and discover unique boutiques, coastal décor, beach essentials and one-of-a-kind gifts. Browse artisan finds at *White Sands Salon & Boutique*, pick up a memorable T-shirt from Beach Planet or gear up for your next fishing adventure at *Mexico Beach Marina & Outfitters*.

Events That Bring Everyone Together

Mexico Beach is more than beautiful

Mexico Beach, Florida ~ The Unforgettable Coast

Not all beaches are created equal, and Mexico Beach is a living proof. Nestled along the Gulf in Northwest Florida, just east of Panama City Beach, this quiet coastal gem has remained a beloved retreat for generations of travelers. With nearly five miles of pristine sugar-white sand and a laid-back atmosphere that captures the essence of "Old Florida," Mexico Beach offers more than just a vacation destination, it offers an experience that stays with you long after you leave. Visit once and you'll understand why so many families, friends and beach lovers return year after year to The Unforgettable Coast®.

A True Escape to Simpler Times

In Mexico Beach, time slows down. There are no towering high-rises blocking your Gulf views and no traffic lights interrupting the peaceful rhythm of the day, because there simply aren't any. Since 1946, the city has proudly preserved its small-town charm, creating a place where visitors can reconnect with the simple joys of a classic beach vacation. It's the kind of destination that brings back memories of childhood summers spent chasing waves, building sandcastles and gathering with family after a long day in the sun.

While Mexico Beach embraces simplicity, it still offers all the modern comforts needed for a memorable getaway. Whether you're looking for a relaxing retreat, a family vacation or an adventure-filled weekend, you'll find it here. Public parks,

locally owned restaurants, vibrant shops, fishing charters, pickleball courts and scenic walking paths all add to the charm of this welcoming coastal community.

Adventures On The Water

The warm Gulf waters surrounding Mexico Beach create the perfect playground for visitors of all ages. Spend the day swimming, paddleboarding, kayaking, snorkeling or simply floating in the calm waters. Anglers can cast a line from shore or head offshore with one of our experienced charter captains in search of the catch of a lifetime. For divers and underwater explorers, the Gulf offers an incredible world waiting beneath the surface. Natural reefs, artificial reef systems and historic shipwrecks teem with marine life, making Mexico Beach a favorite destination for scuba diving and spearfishing. Whether you're an experienced diver or trying something new for the first time, adventure is always within reach.

Fresh Seafood & Coastal Flavors

After a day on the beach, Mexico Beach's local dining scene delivers flavors as memorable as the sunsets. Enjoy fresh Gulf seafood from the market at *Shell Shack*, dig into award-winning favorites at *Killer Seafood* or catch the game with burgers and wings at *Mango Marley's*. Craving something casual? From open-air cafés to fresh pizza and coastal-inspired cuisine, there's something for every appetite.

Start your morning with a handcrafted coffee and one of the famous cinnamon rolls from *Caribbean Coffee & Café* or grab a

beaches and unforgettable sunsets, it's a community full of heart. Throughout the year, visitors and locals come together for events that celebrate coastal living and small-town hospitality. Favorites include the Unforgettable Vow Renewal Ceremony, July 4th Sandy Shoes 5K Fun-Run, September Music in the Park, Turkey Trot and more. No matter the season, there's always something happening that invites visitors to become part of the community.

Plan Your Visit

Ready to discover The Unforgettable Coast® for yourself? Whether it's the peaceful sound of waves at sunrise, the thrill of reeling in a trophy catch or simply the feeling of soft white sand beneath your feet, Mexico Beach offers the kind of memories that stay with you long after summer ends.

Discover more at www.MexicoBeach.com.



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Discover Your Escape at MexicoBeach.com





BY RENU SAGGAR

If you prefer to stay dry but still want adrenaline, *iFly* in nearby Paramus, offers indoor skydiving that will get your heart racing.

But the Meadowlands also knows how to slow down. Visitors seeking fresh air should drive five minutes to *DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst*. Home to the *Meadowlands Environment Center* this 13,000-acre nature preserve is a testament to restoration. Walk the 3.5 miles of trails through tidal wetlands while gazing at the Manhattan skyline. It is one of the best bird-watching spots on the Eastern seaboard, herons and egrets have returned to marshes that were once written off as dead. It's a quiet, beautiful victory for nature right in the shadow of the stadium.

The Meadowlands is Summer's Ultimate Playground

The Meadowlands isn't just on the way to the Big Apple. It's an amazing destination all by itself. Just minutes from New York City — but unmistakably New Jersey — in summer it's a warm-weather playground where sports, music, adventure and endless possibilities all mingle and intersect.

This summer, as the world descends for the FIFA World Cup™, the Meadowlands isn't just hosting games, it's the epicenter of one of global sports greatest spectacles.

While the soccer matches at MetLife Stadium are the main draw, the real party is happening next door. The undisputed king of summer events is the *Dream Fan Fest at American Dream*. Running from June 11 through July 19, this 39-day mega-event transforms the massive retail and entertainment complex into a global village.

Imagine watching Mexico face off against South Africa while a mariachi band plays, or cheering the U.S. team alongside retired national team legends. The lineup is staggering: youth soccer clinics hosted by the New York Red Bulls, watch parties curated by celebrity chefs like Marcus Samuelsson and themed days featuring the New York Giants and Gotham FC.

If you haven't visited American Dream forget everything you know about malls. This 3-million-square-foot colossus is an indoor amusement park and entertainment retail center for adults.

First, head to *Big SNOW*. Yes, you read that correctly. While it is 90 degrees and humid outside, you can be carving down a real-snow ski slope. It's the only indoor, year-round ski resort in North America and it's surreal to see snowboarders gliding down the slope while walking by or engaging in a meal next door.

For a chillier vibe the *DreamWorks Water Park* features massive slides and a lazy river, while *Nickelodeon Universe* boasts the title of America's largest indoor theme park. Want something educational? The SEA LIFE Aquarium offers shark encounters that are as thrilling as any roller coaster.

At the *William D. McDowell Observatory* also in DeKorte Park, stargazing events invite you to look beyond the stadium lights. On clear summer and fall nights, visitors can peer through telescopes at distant planets and constellations, guided by experts who make the vast universe feel surprisingly close. It's a different kind of spectacle — quiet, inspiring and memorable.

For an even deeper look at the region's natural beauty, hop aboard a guided eco-cruise with the *Hackensack Riverkeeper*. These boat tours offer a one-of-a-kind perspective on the Meadowlands waterways, bringing visitors up close to the wildlife, wetlands and history of the Hackensack River. It's an unexpected experience — and a reminder that this region is as rich in nature as it is in entertainment.

What makes the Meadowlands special in summer isn't just the individual events — it's how easily they connect. You can begin your day immersed in the natural habitats of the region's wildlife, enjoy lunch with a scenic view of the skyline, spend the afternoon shopping or experiencing the thrills, all within minutes of each other. 🦋

For more information, visit mlcvb.com.



DeKorte Park Shore Walk

Passaic New Jersey ~ City Lights & Natural Delights

Passaic County, New Jersey offers an unexpected blend of historic castles, waterfalls, scenic gardens and expansive outdoor escapes, all within an hour of New York City. From Gilded Age estates and nationally significant waterfalls, to rugged Highlands forests and vibrant community festivals, the county provides a diverse year-round destination ideal for summer and fall travel.

Lambert Castle is an 1892 sandstone mansion perched high atop Garret Mountain and overlooking the City of Paterson, it's one of Northern New Jersey's most striking historic landmarks. Fashioned after an English medieval fortress, the Castle was built by Catholina Lambert, a silk merchant and English immigrant. The *Grand Art Court* is the mansion's centerpiece, rising through multiple stories and crowned by a dramatic glass skylight. Don't miss the panoramic view of the NYC skyline from the nearby *Lambert Tower*.

Skylands Manor is a 1920s Tudor Revival estate located within Ringwood State Park. Now part of the New Jersey Botanical Garden at Skylands, it features a stone manor, formal gardens and views of Ramapo Mountain. Surrounded by more than 1,000



Great Falls National Historic Park

acres of protected woodland, it's often described as a "storybook castle in the woods."

Paterson *Great Falls National Historical Park*, is where the Passaic River plunges 77 feet over a rugged basalt ledge—a sight so powerful, it inspired Alexander Hamilton to envision the nation's first planned industrial city. It's not just a natural wonder, but the engine that powered the American Industrial Revolution. Designated a National Historical Park by the National Park

Service, it features overlooks walkways and interpretive exhibits.

Norvin Green State Forest in Bloomingdale, protected over 5,400 acres of Highlands wilderness with more than 50 miles of hiking trails. One of northern New Jersey's most rugged hiking destinations, it features ridge climbs, waterfalls and panoramic overlooks.

Family friendly *Rifle Camp Park* in Woodland Park, offers forested hiking trails and an environmental education center.

The 576 acre *Aphawa Preserve* in West Milford, features the Butler Reservoir surrounded by wooded trails. Over 5 miles of hiking paths weave through its diverse ecosystems. Go to seepassaiccounty.org for more information.

A GILDED AGE SUMMER Awaits

DISCOVER PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Explore historic castles, stroll through blooming gardens, savor afternoon tea, chase waterfalls, and enjoy festivals and live entertainment all summer long.

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RICH HISTORY. BRIGHT FUTURE.

PASSAIC COUNTY NEW JERSEY

PASSAIC COUNTY
 NEW JERSEY



BY RENU SAGGAR

the United States.

Travel Back 66 Million Years:

Rising from a former marl quarry in Mantua Township, the *Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park and Museum of Rowan University* is a world-class destination inspired by the deep-time perspective of the fossil record. Set within a 65-acre landscape, the museum overlooks a quarry where 66-million-year-old marine and terrestrial fossils capture the final moments of the dinosaur era. Visitors can dig for real Late Cretaceous fossils — including shark teeth, mosasaur bones, and marine snails — at the adjacent outdoor fossil dig site.

Nature lovers should make a point to visit the *Pinelands National Reserve*,

Summer in South Jersey ~ Perfect for Everyone

Travelers seeking an appealing blend of history, culture and nature need look no further than South Jersey. Located just across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, this vibrant region includes Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties. Visitors will discover a wealth of special events, diverse shopping, comfortable hotels, exceptional restaurants, award-winning wineries and thrilling outdoor adventures.

The *Camden Waterfront* offers stunning views of the Delaware River and is a perfect destination for families of all ages. Here, you'll find a dynamic mix of restaurants, shops and entertainment venues. A major highlight is the *Mortgage Freedom Pavilion*, which hosts major Live Nation concerts and events throughout the summer.

Permanently moored on the waterfront is the *Battleship New Jersey*. At nearly 900 feet long and 11 stories high, America's most decorated battleship is an awe-inspiring sight. Now a floating museum, the ship offers guided tours, historical exhibits and special events year-round.

Right next door, the *Adventure Aquarium* provides a fantastic interactive family experience. It features one-of-a-kind exhibits with more than 15,000 aquatic species, including the largest collection of sharks on the East Coast. Don't miss the newest addition, the *Stingray Beach Club*, where visitors can touch and hand-feed an array of gentle stingrays.

A short drive away, *Haddonfield* is a picturesque town often compared to an idealized "Main Street USA." Kings Highway, a long stretch filled with locally owned boutiques and excellent restaurants, is lined with beautifully preserved colonial-era architecture. Haddonfield is also notable as the childhood home of director *Steven Spielberg* and features a monument to the *Hadrosaurus*, the first dinosaur skeleton ever discovered in

a unique coastal plain ecosystem found in only a few places on the planet. Spanning 1.1 million acres, this preserve offers boating, fishing, camping and immersive nature trails. History buffs can explore ghost towns and ruins scattered across the region — remnants of industries like bog iron, forestry, charcoal, paper and glass. And keep an eye on the legends: for over 250 years, the infamous *Jersey Devil* has been said to prowl the marshes of South Jersey as the protector of the Pine Barrens. Visitors are advised to treat the forest with respect.

A trip to South Jersey must also include a visit to one of its many internationally award-winning wineries and vineyards within the Outer Coastal Plain AVA. Be sure to taste the *Coeur d'Est*, a proprietary red wine blend found exclusively here in South Jersey. Many wineries offer relaxing afternoons of wine sipping, live music and farm-to-fork dinners throughout the summer.

Finally, experience a piece of Americana at the *Cowtown Rodeo in Pilesgrove*. As the oldest weekly rodeo in the country, it has been entertaining visitors since 1929. The 2026 rodeo season opened in May and you can catch all the excitement of bull riding, steer wrestling and other events in a 4,000-seat arena. Remarkably, the ranch still raises most of its own bucking stock — the broncos you see today are the grandsons and granddaughters of horses that might have thrilled crowds back in the early 1970s. 🐎

Plan Your Trip

For more information about South Jersey, including event schedules and travel tips, go to visitsouthjersey.com. Whether you love history, nature, live music or family festivals, South Jersey truly offers a perfect summer for everyone!



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



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Tall Ships in New York Harbor

BY RENU SAGGAR

American journey.

The powerful *Empty Sky 9/11 Memorial* is a peaceful and moving space that honors lives lost while framing one of the most incredible skyline views in the country. With open skies, waterfront breezes, and front-row seats to one of the most iconic backdrops in the world, Liberty State Park isn't just a stop on your itinerary—it's the heart of the celebration.

Get up close to two of America's most iconic landmarks—*Statue of Liberty* and *Ellis Island*. This isn't just sightseeing, it's stepping directly into the American story.

Tall Ships & Fireworks Make Summer Sizzle in Hudson County

If there was ever a year to go BIG for the Fourth of July, this is it. 2026 marks America's 250th anniversary, and there's no better place to celebrate than right here in Hudson County, New Jersey—where history, skyline views and waterfront energy come together for one unforgettable experience.

From Tall Ships to iconic landmarks, incredible food and a fireworks show that's one of the best in the country, here's your ultimate guide to a fun, festive and totally unforgettable Independence Day!

Step Into History with the Tall Ships

Kick off your celebration with one of the most exciting highlights of the year: Tall Ships arriving along the Hudson River. The 250th anniversary celebration offers a rare chance to see these massive, historic sailing vessels up close. The world's largest fleet of tall ships and gray hull ships will sail into New York Harbor and salute the Statue of Liberty. It's a universal celebration of independence! Walk the waterfront and watch as these majestic ships glide past the skyline.

Featured Tall Ships Events

- July 3 – Sail4th 250 Parade. Tall ships sail down the East River, traveling from Hell Gate Bridge to Sandy Hook, NJ—an incredible afternoon parade.
- July 4 – International Naval Review. Naval “gray hull” ships from across the globe line the Hudson River.
- July 4 – Sail4th 250 Parade Sail. More than 30 of the world's most impressive tall ships sail up the Hudson River from the Verrazano Bridge to the George Washington Bridge.

Plan Your Visit - Tall Ships Events are July 3-8

- Public waterfront viewing and visitation is free! Class A and Class B Tall Ships will be docked and open for public visitation
- Premium viewing areas and sightseeing cruises will be available with tickets
- For the full schedule of events from July 3–8, including public viewing and cruises, visit: <https://sail4th.org/schedule>.

Liberty State Park: 50 Year Anniversary

Liberty State Park is where everything comes together. Spend your afternoon exploring the historic *Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal*, where millions of immigrants began their

From sweeping harbor views to powerful history this is one of those experiences that stays with you.

Getting there is easy and part of the experience. Book your ferry tickets & tours in advance through the official service, Statue City Cruises - <https://www.statuecitycruises.com/>. Depart from Liberty State Park for the most convenient New Jersey access.

Pro Tips for the Best Day Ever

Book early—like, seriously early. Fourth of July weekend is one of the busiest times of the year and ferries sell out fast. Start your day early to beat both crowds and summer heat. Morning views are unbeatable anyway. Don't skip the Ellis Island Hard Hat Tour—this behind-the-scenes experience takes you into the unrestored hospital complex.

After a full day of celebrating, it's time to slow things down—in the best way possible—at *Liberty House Restaurant*. Tucked right along the waterfront in Liberty State Park, this is one of the most unforgettable dining spots in the entire region—where the food is incredible and the view of Manhattan skyline is jaw-dropping especially as the sun sets.

The Grand Finale: Fireworks on the Hudson

As the sun sets, the celebration turns into pure magic. Fireworks burst over the Hudson River, lighting up the night sky with the New York City skyline as your backdrop. Whether you're in Liberty State Park, along the Hoboken waterfront or anywhere on the Jersey City shoreline, you'll have a front-row seat to an unforgettable show.

This isn't just fireworks—it's a once-in-a-generation celebration for America's 250th birthday, filling the harbor with light, energy at Macy's 50th Fireworks Spectacular!

Why Hudson County is THE Place to Be in 2026

Between historic landmarks, waterfront views and front-row seats to America 250th birthday, Hudson County delivers a 4th of July celebration like nowhere else.

So grab your red, white and blue, call your crew and get ready to celebrate America's 250th anniversary in unforgettable style. Because this year... it's not just Independence Day—it's history in the making. 🇺🇸

For more information on hotels, eateries and attractions, visit www.visithudson.org.

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary in Epic Style



If there was ever a year to go BIG for the Fourth of July, this is it. 2026 marks America's 250th anniversary, and there's no better place to celebrate than right here in **Hudson County, New Jersey**—where history, skyline views, and waterfront energy come together for one unforgettable experience.

From Tall Ships to iconic landmarks, incredible food, and a fireworks show that stands out as one of the best in the country, here's your ultimate guide to a fun, festive, and totally unforgettable Independence Day!



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



visithudson.org



BY RENU SAGGAR

An Authentic Slice of Americana

The iconic 80-foot-long, 19-foot-high Wildwoods sign has been dubbed “the Hollywood sign of the East Coast.” And colorful wall murals pay tribute to the musical artists who made their names in the Wildwoods.

Doo-Wop Mid-Century Flair

The Wildwoods offer the largest collection of mid-20th-century architecture in the country, with bright neon signs, unique architectural designs and equally colorful motel names. In the Wildwoods, there’s a saying: “As art deco is to South Beach, doo-wop is to the Wildwoods.”

So Much to Do ~ So Much That’s Free in the Wildwoods

The sea. The sand. The sun. Is there anything more alluring than the Southern Jersey Shore? And that’s just the start of the Wildwoods’ affordable appeal.

In the Wildwoods, you can add a little more to that feeling of freedom. Because at a time when the rising cost of beach tags makes just getting on the sand a real expense, The Wildwoods’ beaches are always free for everyone. And that’s just the start of its affordable appeal.

The Wildwoods are bursting with Free attractions, Free events and festivals. Free outdoor concerts. Free Friday night fireworks. Free movies under the stars. Even a spectacular 2-mile boardwalk and scenic bike paths. Here is just some of what makes the Wildwoods the best family vacation value at the Jersey Shore.

Lots of Room to Spread Out

The Wildwoods have some of the cleanest, most spacious pristine white-sand beaches on the East Coast. They have been voted Top 10 Beaches in the U.S.” And they’re absolutely Free to enjoy with no beach expensive tags required. Everything you want in a great vacation experience is on one five-mile island.

Bikeability’ & Natural Beauty

Take a 12-mile round trip bike ride on the bike paths and on the Wildwoods’ Boardwalk or pedal on special bike-only

lanes along the Wildwoods’ streets or around to the island’s back bays. And if you can’t bring your bicycle, rent one (or a surrey) from affordable bike rental shops that dot the island.

Fishing & Crabbing

If fishing is your thing, the fishing pier on the Intracoastal Waterway—known locally as “the back bay”— is popular with visitors and island natives alike.

Enjoy Year-Round Events

There’s always something going on, from the *Barefoot Country Music Fest* on the beach to the *Wildwoods’ Airshow*, Irish and Italian festivals and street fairs to classic car shows. Like food and music festivals? There’s the *Fabulous ‘50s Weekend* and the *Anglesea Blues Festival*. Like great food? How about the *New Jersey State Barbeque Championships*? Like to know more about the 160-plus events and festivals in the Wildwoods? Visit WildwoodsNJ.com/events-calendar/.

The World-Famous Boardwalk

With shops, eateries, arcades, carnival games and three exciting amusement piers with over 100-rides and attractions, and two Wet ‘n Wild beachfront waterparks, the iconic 38-block *Wildwoods’ Boardwalk* is ideal for strolling, jogging or biking. And when you get tired of walking, just hop on the famous *Wildwoods’ Boardwalk Tram Car* and ride in style.

Make the Wildwoods More Affordable

There’s a lot of free fun in the Wildwoods. But there are ways to save on other experiences too.

- Keep an eye out for the free *Wildwoods Family Value Coupon Book*—with over \$200 in money-saving coupons: WildwoodsNJ.com/visitor-information/vacation-guide-books/. Individual money-saving coupons can be downloaded and printed for your convenience.

- When you arrive, save on island transportation with a Wildwoods’ Boardwalk Tram Car all-day discount pass. And save on parking fees by hopping on the *Wildwoods Island Shuttle Jitney* to the boardwalk and North Wildwood entertainment district.

- Keep an eye out for holiday sales during the Christmas and Easter seasons for *Morey’s Piers* and beachfront Waterparks, online at moreyspiers.com. Save on the advance purchase of amusement and water park passes.

Now’s the Time!

Planning a vacation in the Wildwoods is always smart, but midweek stays or shoulder season make it a bigger bargain than ever. Search accommodations here: <https://lodging.wildwoodsny.com>. There’s never been a better time to plan your Wildwoods’ vacation. 🏖️

Visit their website at WildwoodsNJ.com.



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The Fairy Tale Forest

BY RENU SAGGAR

instructors and artistic staff. Later in the autumn, from September 19 to October 25, 2026, the gallery will host 2026 Posters for the People: Art of the WPA by Ennis Carter. This powerful exhibition marks the 90th anniversary of the WPA Poster Division of the Federal Art Project, honoring a historic, public-good movement that put American artists to work during the Great Depression.

Discover the Hidden Magic of the Sussex Skylands

When planning a getaway to the picturesque highlands of Northern New Jersey, iconic retreats like *Crystal Springs Resort* and *Mountain Creek Resort* naturally come to mind. Famed for their world-class golfing, luxurious spa amenities and premier ski and waterpark lodging, these resorts provide the perfect, upscale base camp for an unforgettable vacation. Yet, just beyond the comfort of the resorts lies a side of Sussex County that many travelers miss—a realm where art, history, mythology and folklore intertwine. If you are ready to venture past the mainstream tourist spots, here is a guide to the area's most unique, lesser-known treasures.

Step Into a Storybook at Fairy Tale Forest

For those who wish to wander into a world of pure imagination, a visit to *Fairy Tale Forest* in Oak Ridge is an absolute must. This whimsical attraction brings the timeless folklore of the Brothers Grimm vividly to life. Originally opened in the mid-20th century, this beloved park invites guests to stroll through enchanted paths where classic fables are beautifully recreated. It is a nostalgic and deeply fantastical experience that reminds us of the roots of myth and storytelling, making it a magical detour for the young and the young-at-heart alike.

Get Creative at the Peters Valley School of Craft

Deep within the breathtaking expanses of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, nature and humanity blend seamlessly at the *Peters Valley School of Craft*. Surrounded by tranquil fields, dense forests and rushing streams, this world-renowned immersive craft school is a sanctuary for artistic souls. Peters Valley is celebrated for its eclectic, hands-on workshops that challenge the boundaries of traditional art—offering uniquely named sessions like *Breaking the Boundaries of the Bowl*, *Belt Buckle Bonanza* and *Landscape Needle Felting*.

Even if you aren't enrolling in a multi-day workshop, the site's gallery exhibits offer an incredible cultural stop. If you visit between June 14 and July 31, 2026, you can catch the 2026 *Making Matters: Fresh Perspectives in Fine Craft* exhibition, which showcases brilliant new works by the season's visiting

Where Myth & Nature Meet: Skylands Museum of Art

The *Skylands Museum of Art* is a captivating destination where art, nature, mythology and humanity harmonize beautifully, indoors and out. The museum asks viewers to contemplate our place in the natural world, utilizing mythological themes to bridge the gap between ancient storytelling and modern sculpture. Walking through its gallery spaces and outdoor installations provides a deeply contemplative, atmosphere that feeds the mind and soothes the traveler's soul.

Down to Middle Earth at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum

The Sterling Hill Mining Museum & Tour in Ogdensburg offers an unparalleled subterranean adventure. Stepping inside this historic zinc mine reveals an enduring geological mystery. As you navigate the underground shafts, the true show stopper awaits: the world-famous "Rainbow Tunnel." Here, the mine walls erupt into an otherworldly, neon glow under ultraviolet light, showcasing a dazzling array of rare fluorescent minerals. It is a stunning visual spectacle that feels entirely sci-fi, perfectly blending industrial history with natural magic.

Old-Fashioned Fun at the New Jersey State Fair

No trip to the region is complete without experiencing the *New Jersey State Fair*, held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds. This is where "Farm Meets Fun" in the most spectacular way. Beyond the classic agricultural showcases and thrilling horse shows, the fair boasts extensive art and photography exhibits and a lively performing arts lineup. To top off the evening entertainment, regional favorites like *The Nerds* take the stage, filling the night air with high-energy music. It is a celebration steeped in local history that rounds out any summer itinerary.

Your Perfect Getaway Awaits

Whether you are unearthing glowing rocks deep underground, exploring 1930s public art or sleeping under the stars at Crystal Springs or Mountain Creek, the Sussex Skylands turns the every day into the extraordinary. Leave the old, familiar routines behind and come discover the hidden magic waiting just around the corner. 🍷

Plan your visit today at www.sussexskylands.com.

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Costumed interpreters at the Halifax Citadel

A Safe Harbour in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's Halifax Harbour has been a safe haven for sailors for centuries. Today it is fast becoming one of the most popular summer cruise destinations on the Eastern seaboard. Most ships dock at Pavilion 22 or 23, which puts you directly on the Halifax Waterfront Boardwalk—one of the longest and most scenic downtown boardwalks in the world. Visitors will find a number of good restaurants, galleries, museums and a raucous nightlife. It's also an easy drive from postcard perfect communities like *Peggy's Cove*, the world's most photographed fishing village, famous for its lighthouse and granite coastline.

Fisherman's Cove is a wonderfully restored 200-year-old fishing village located just 20 minutes from downtown at the entrance to the Halifax Harbour. Visitors can stroll the picturesque boardwalk and visit the many shops and galleries where you can find Maritime crafts, local paint-

ings, unique folk art and more.

Old town *Lunenburg*, about an hour south of Halifax, is a UNESCO world

BY RENU SAGGAR

heritage site with historical properties that bring the past to life. The waterfront's colourful buildings date back to the late 1700s and are still in use today. The town's *Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic* features a fascinating aquarium, a fishing schooner and trawler, films and exhibits. Visitors can even chat with "old salts" who fished the North Atlantic.

Lunenburg is famous for boat building and the *Bluenose II* is moored at the museum wharf. Canada's best-known "tall ship" is a replica of the original *Bluenose*, the famous racing yacht depicted on the Canadian dime. The 143-foot schooner was built in 1963 and is Nova Scotia's marine ambassador. Visitors can ride the wind on special *Bluenose II*, two-hour sailings.

Colonel Edward Cornwallis founded Halifax in 1749, choosing it for its deep, ice-free natural harbour and Halifax still retains a military flavor. The star-shaped *Halifax Citadel* presides over a hill overlooking the harbor. The imposing masonry structure was constructed as a British fort between 1828 and 1856, and features earthen ramparts, musketry gallery, powder magazine, garrison cells and barracks. During the summer, kilted soldiers parade to the sound of bagpipes and the Citadel's noon gun — synonymous with lunchtime in Halifax — has been fired daily for almost two hundred years. The *Public Gardens* feature 16 acres



Peggy's Cove

of some of North America's oldest and best Victorian gardens.

The *Prince of Wales Tower National Historic Site* in Point Pleasant Park, introduced North America to what later came to be known as the Martello tower. The thick, round-walled structure was used for defense. The punctual Prince ordered the *Town Clock* built in 1900, in order to curtail tardiness among his troops. The clock was constructed high on Citadel Hill with four faces, so it could be seen from anywhere in the city.

Visitors will inevitably be drawn to the waterfront lined with 19th century buildings known as the *Historic Properties*. A harbour-side boardwalk leads you past the 19th century restored stone warehouses, now housing a variety of shops, pubs and eateries. Visitors can stroll along the piers, join a walking tour or visit a museum. There are excursions ranging from deep-sea fishing charters to the ferry service between Halifax and the city of Dartmouth across the bay. The harbourfront also provides the backdrop for the *Halifax International Busker Festival*. The 6-day event will be held July 29 to August 3 and gathers some of the world's best and funniest street performers.

Hop aboard a *Harbour Hopper Tour* an amphibious adventure that shows you the best of Halifax by land and sea. Places of interest include Citadel Hill National Historic Site, the Victorian Public Gardens, St. Paul's Church and busy Spring Garden Road.

The waterfront is also home to the *Drunken Lampposts*, a whimsical series of bendy lamppost sculptures. The 'Fountain' lamppost shoots a stream of water into the harbour, as though it was relieving itself after a big night downtown. Not far away, 'Get Drunk, Fall Down' features another lamppost slumped across the pier, with its concerned friend looking down.

Maritimers have always enjoyed what they call "a time" and you can still hear the traditional songs in Halifax clubs like the Fife and Drum, O'Carroll's and the Split Crow. There's always someone with a yarn to spin or a tune to play.

The *Maritime Museum of the Atlantic* reflects Halifax's intimate links with the sea. Located on Lower Water Street, the museum features exhibits on naval convoys, shipwrecks and the restored ship chandlery of William Robertson and Son. The *HMCS Sackville*, a restored corvette that escorted North Atlantic convoys

during World War II, serves as Canada's naval memorial and is berthed at Sackville Landing, the museum's wharf. The museum also has a number of artifacts pulled from the water within weeks of the sinking of the Titanic, including the Shoes of the Titanic Unknown Child.

An award-winning display chronicles the infamous *Halifax Explosion*. In 1917, a French munitions ship collided with a Norwegian vessel in the narrowest part of Halifax Harbour, detonating 400,000 pounds of TNT. Sixteen hundred people died and two square miles of the city were leveled in the largest man-made explosion prior to Hiroshima.

Halifax has one of the most moving connections with the Titanic disaster. This is where the maiden voyage of Titanic ended for hundreds of passengers and crew members. The city played a pivotal role in the aftermath of the sinking and became the final resting-place of many of her unclaimed victims. Three Halifax ships were involved in the grim task of recovering the bodies — many of whom were buried in three city cemeteries. Rows of black granite headstones, all inscribed with the same date, April 15, 1912, are a quiet reminder of the disaster. 📖



Lunenburg Harbour



BY RENU SAGGAR

platform as the volcanic peak of Tenerife rises from the sea.

Dining is a gastronomic event. The main *Britannia Restaurant*, spans two decks and offers rotating six-course menus that avoid the typical buffet mush. Think roasted Cornish Sole, tenderloin of Beef Wellington and cheese trolleys that roll right to your table. The alternative restaurants are worthwhile: The *Verandah* serves a French-inspired lunch for a pittance, while the Golden Lion pub serves proper fish and chips and a decent pint of bitter. Afternoon tea in the *Queens Room*—white-gloved waiters, live piano and scones with clotted cream—is a non-negotiable ritual. The *Commodore Club*—perched at the bow with floor-to-ceiling windows—offers the best martinis on the Atlantic.

The Queen Victoria leans into its heritage. On a typical sea day, you might attend a classical recital, a lecture by a former intelligence officer or a fencing class. But the headline act is the Royal Night and the *Black and White Ball*. Ladies, pack your sequins, gentlemen, don't forget your bow tie.

The real magic of this voyage lies not

Timeless Elegance on the Atlantic

The air in Southampton's Cruise Terminal always carries a distinct hum of anticipation, whenever there's a Cunard departure. Towering above the pier, the *Queen Victoria* is a beacon of maritime tradition—her iconic black hull and red funnel gleaming against the sky. For the next 14 days, 2,000 guests will trade the English chill for the eternal spring of Madeira and the volcanic soul of the Canary Islands.

Cunard's Queen Victoria is a floating Belgravia. Step aboard and you immediately sense the difference. Think Art Deco flourishes, rich mahogany and chandeliers that cascade like frozen fireworks. The three-tiered *Royal Court Theatre* is pure West End, while the *Queens Room*—the largest ballroom at sea—features a marble dance floor where couples still know how to dance cheek to cheek.

It is not a frantic 'party-cruise' nor a floating amusement park. It is a voyage for those who believe the journey is the destination and that white-gloved service is not a relic but a relief. It is a masterclass in mid-winter escape.

Unlike the behemoths of other lines, Queen Victoria at 90,000 tons feels intimate. You learn the layout quickly: The soothing serenity of the *Winter Garden*,

the erudite hush of the *Book Shop* and the frankly dangerous allure of the boutiques on the *Royal Arcade*.

Cabins range from cozy inside state-rooms to lavish *Queens Grill* suites. The *Britannia Balcony* state rooms are the sweet spot. Expect Cunard's signature white-on-white bedding, a deep-soaking tub and enough wardrobe space for a fortnight's worth of formal wear which is mandatory on gala evenings. The balconies, while compact, become your private viewing



just in the ship's walnut-paneled corridors, but in the rhythmic unveiling of ports—each with a distinct personality, from botanical gardens to lunar volcanoes. The Queen Victoria glides into the natural amphitheater of *Funchal Bay*, with staggering, green mountainsides tumbling down to a pastel waterfront. The Rua de Santa Maria in the Zona Velha (Old Town) is an open-air art gallery—each door painted by a different artist. For the adventurous, the Monte Toboggan Ride is a must. Ride a wooden wicker sled down a steep cobblestone street with no brakes. For gardeners, the *Monte Palace Tropical Garden* is a three-hour immersion of orchids and Japanese koi.

The Canary Islands offer a blend of prehistoric landscapes, Saharan dunes and lush pine forests. Contrary to popular belief, the islands weren't named after the yellow songbirds we know today. The name actually stems from the Latin phrase *Canariae Insulae*, meaning "Islands of the Dogs."

Las Palmas, Gran Canaria is famous for *Las Canteras Beach*—a three-kilometer golden arc protected by a natural lava reef. Find a *chiringuito* (beach bar) and order *papas arrugadas* (wrinkled potatoes)

with *mojo verde*. The *Maspalomas Dunes* are massive, rolling sand dunes that look like a slice of the Sahara Desert dropped into the middle of the ocean.

If sand isn't your style, walk inland to *Vegueta*, the old quarter. Columbus prayed at the Cathedral of Santa Ana before setting sail for the New World.

Tenerife is the largest of the Canaries, and it offers two completely different days. Option one—city explorer: Santa Cruz boasts the *Auditorio de Tenerife*, a swooping white opera house designed by Santiago Calatrava that looks like a breaking wave frozen in concrete. Adventurers can take an excursion to *Teide National Park*. Climbing from sea level to 2,000 meters you will pass through pine forests, then lunar rock fields. Mount Teide itself is Spain's highest peak (3,718m). The landscape is so stark and red that NASA tests Mars rovers here.

Lanzarote's other wordly geology is on full display in *Timanfaya National Park*. The park is a vast sea of solidified black lava. At the *Fire Mountains* (Montañas del Fuego), rangers throw dry brush into rocky crevices—it ignites instantly from geothermal heat. Drive along the *Ruta de los Volcanes*, a road winding through

25 volcanoes. The ecosystem here is so fragile that you cannot walk off-path.

The approach to Lisbon, usually around dawn, is the voyage's single most beautiful sail-in. Queen Victoria transits the Tagus River, passing the *Belém Tower* (a 16th-century fortress) and the Monument to the Discoveries shaped like a ship's prow. Take the rattling yellow tram through the *Alfama* district—Lisbon's oldest quarter. Get off at the *Miradouro de Santa Luzia* for a postcard view of red roofs and the river.

If you want a full excursion, skip Lisbon proper and take a train to *Sintra*, 40 minutes away. Here, the *Pena National Palace* erupts from a mountain like a Disney castle designed by mad monks—bright yellow, red and turquoise. Or visit the *Quinta da Regaleira*, with its inverted tower (the Initiation Well) that looks like something from a Dan Brown novel.

Queen Victoria isn't just a holiday. It is a reminder that sailing—with its rituals, its horizons and its grand, slow pace—remains the most civilized way to travel. You leave with a tan, two kilos of clotted cream weight and a deeply recalibrated soul. 🌊



The Island of Tenerife



Panorama of the Gordie Howe International Bridge

BY RENU SAGGAR

deep, shared culture between Michigan and Ontario. Naming the bridge in his honor was a masterstroke of diplomacy, grounding a massive infrastructure undertaking in a common heritage and mutual respect.

From an engineering perspective, the project is nothing short of awe-inspiring. The centerpiece is a spectacular cable-stayed bridge, with a main span of 853 meters (nearly 2,800 feet), making it the longest of its kind in North America. Two imposing towers soar to a height of

Gordie Howe Bridge Connects North America

Rising majestically over the Detroit River, the Gordie Howe International Bridge is a symphony of steel and concrete. One of the largest infrastructure projects currently underway in North America, it's destined to become more than just a conduit for cars and trucks. The bridge is a monumental testament to international partnership, economic ambition and the enduring power of connection. More than just a new crossing, it's a 21st-century lifeline between two great nations, carrying with it the hopes for a more prosperous and efficient future.

Jointly owned by Canada and Michigan, the Canadian government funded the entire \$6.4 billion cost and will collect all the tolls until they recover their investment. The long-delayed crossing will also include the largest U.S. border checkpoint in Canada.

The bridge's name itself carries a profound symbolic weight. Gordie Howe, nicknamed "Mr. Hockey," was a legendary athlete who transcended the sport to become a beloved icon on both sides of the border. Known for his exceptional skill and resilience — a style of play encapsulated by the "Gordie Howe Hat Trick" when a player collects a goal, an assist and a fight in the same game. Howe's strength, scoring ability and speed exemplified the perfect example of the modern-day role of a power forward. From 1946 to 1980, he played 26 seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) and six seasons in the World Hockey Association. In 1997, Howe played professional hockey in a sixth decade with a one-game appearance with the Detroit Vipers at age 69.

His name represents strength, integrity and the

220 meters (722 feet), creating an instantly recognizable new landmark on the skyline. The A-shaped bridge towers, were built on opposite banks of the Detroit River and were designed to resemble hockey sticks winding up for a slap shot.

But the bridge is just one component of a vast project that includes new plazas on both sides of the border, state-of-the-art ports of entry and direct connections to the highway systems in Michigan and Ontario. This comprehensive approach ensures that the bridge will not merely move traffic from one bank to the other, but will integrate seamlessly into the continental logistics network. The bridge will provide uninterrupted freeway traffic flow, as opposed to the current configuration with the nearby Ambassador Bridge that connects to city streets on the Ontario side.



For decades, an aging Ambassador Bridge, has held a virtual monopoly on cross-border traffic between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. First proposed in the early 2000s, the project was met with stiff opposition by Ambassador Bridge owner the late Manuel “Matty” Moroun, who believed competition from a publicly owned bridge would reduce his revenue. The Ambassador Bridge has been criticized for its private ownership, aging infrastructure and monopoly status, as large trucks are not permitted to use the Windsor Detroit tunnel. He sued the governments of Canada and Michigan to stop its construction.

The anticipated benefits of the new bridge are multifaceted. Economically, the bridge is a game-changer. By providing much-needed redundancy and increased capacity, it will streamline the supply chain, reduce costly delays for manufacturers and shippers and support the millions of jobs on both sides of the border that depend on smooth trade. The project has already generated thousands of construction jobs and is expected to spur significant new investment and development in the surrounding communities.

Environmentally and socially, the new crossing promises a cleaner, more community-focused alternative. Modern design and efficient traffic flow will help reduce vehicle emissions in neighbourhoods long burdened by congestion. Furthermore, the project includes the creation of new multi-use trails, reconnecting communities that were previously divided by industrial infrastructure and offering citizens unprecedented access to their shared waterfront. The bridge’s bicycle and walking path connect to new and existing trails as well as bike lanes on both sides of the Detroit River. This multi-use path will be the

first non special event, legal pedestrian crossing of the Detroit River. There will be customs facilities in both countries that are convenient and dedicated to the processing of travelers by foot or bicycle to prevent interacting with border vehicle traffic. Crossing the bridge on foot or cycle will be free of tolls.

The bridge will display several pieces of public art. On the outside of a maintenance building, Canadian artist Sara Graham designed *On the Other Side of Tomorrow*, with cast concrete patterns that represent natural and urban features.

Aazhoge, a 3-metre-high (9.8 ft) sculpture of tree bark by Anishinaabe artist Michael Belmore recognizes and celebrates First Nations. It’s visible as traffic enters and leaves the Canadian Port of Entry. Canadian artist Jordan Sook was commissioned to create an artwork commemorating the Underground Railroad. Sook was chosen from a selection of Canadian artists from the Black, African and Caribbean diaspora. Canadian artist Douglas Coupland has been commissioned to provide architectural lighting for the bridge.

As the Gordie Howe International Bridge opens to the public it stands as a powerful rebuttal to the forces of isolationism. It is a physical declaration that the futures of Canada and the United States are inextricably linked. More than just steel and concrete, it is a symbol of a partnership built on a century shared goals, mutual prosperity and a forward-looking vision of the future.

When the first vehicles cross its span, they will be traveling on more than a bridge, they will be traversing a new artery of the North American economy, a structure that truly lives up to the proud legacy of its namesake. 🇨🇦





BY RENU SAGGAR

the earth to a dusty gold. The island of *Gozo*, just a 25-minute ferry ride away, is greener and more rural, with rolling hills and the stunning Inland Sea, a collapsed sinkhole linked to the open ocean by a narrow natural arch.

Valletta, the capital, is a Unesco World Heritage site that feels less like a city and more like a living museum. Built by the Knights of St. John after the Great Siege of 1565, it is a grid of straight, steep streets designed for both defense and ventilation. *St. John's Co-Cathedral* looks plain from the outside but inside explodes into a riot of gilt, marble and Caravaggio's masterpiece, *The Beheading of St. John the Baptist*. Across the Grand Harbour, the ancient capital of *Mdina*—the "Silent City"—sits on a hilltop. Encased in Norman and Baroque walls, its narrow, winding alleys are free of traffic and full of palazzos. Walk its bastions at sunset, and you'll see why it was used as *King's Landing* in *Game of Thrones*.

Elsewhere, *Rabat* (just outside Mdina) houses catacombs, where early Christians hid from Roman persecution. The fishing village of *Marsaxlokk* offers a different rhythm: a harbor bobbing with *Luzzus*—

Malta is an Open-Air Masterpiece

There are few places in the world where geography, history and culture collide with such dramatic force as the Maltese archipelago. Situated just 50 miles south of Sicily and 200 miles north of Libya, Malta, Gozo and Comino serve as a geological and cultural crossroads. Here, limestone cliffs plunge into electric blue waters, prehistoric temples predate the pyramids and the legacy of knights, pharaohs and emperors is etched into every street corner. For the traveler seeking a compact yet bottomless destination, Malta is a revelation.

Malta's geography is its first great storyteller. The islands are composed of layered globigerina limestone—soft, golden and easily carved, which explains the nation's honey-hued architecture. The coastline is a jagged masterpiece: to the south, the Blue Grotto's sea caves reflect sunlight into sapphire lagoons, to the north, the sandy bays of *Mellie* and *Golden Bay* offer soft Mediterranean lounging. The inland landscape is surprisingly arid yet beautiful—terraced fields divided by dry-stone

walls, dotted with prickly pears and wild thyme. In spring, red poppies carpet the valleys. In summer, the sun bakes



Painted Boats in Marsaxlokk Harbour

traditional painted fishing boats with eyes on their bows, believed to protect against evil.

Malta's time line is dizzying. Start at the *Hagar Qim* and *Mnajdra* temples, free-standing limestone complexes built between 3600 and 3200 BC. They predate Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids by a thousand years. No one knows exactly how the ancients moved the massive coralline blocks, but standing inside their elliptical chambers, with the sea shimmering below, feels profoundly spiritual.

Then leap forward 4,000 years to the *Hal Saflieni Hypogeum*, an underground necropolis carved into the rock over three levels. Only 80 visitors per day are allowed—book months in advance. Finally, explore the *Lascaris War Rooms* beneath Valletta, a subterranean WWII bunker where Eisenhower planned *Operation Husky*, the invasion of Sicily. Malta, you realize, has always been a keystone—for Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, the Knights, Napoleon and the British.

Maltese culture is a vibrant, noisy, and devout blend of Mediterranean and British legacies. The British left behind red telephone boxes, three-pin plugs and a

love of football and tea. The Knights left behind Baroque opulence. But the heart of Maltese culture is the festa—every town's patron saint day between May and September. Streets are draped in colored bunting, brass bands clash and towering statues of saints are carried through crowds as firecrackers explode overhead. The Maltese language is a linguistic anomaly: a Semitic base (derived from Siculo-Arabic) layered with Italian and English vocabulary. "Mela" (well or then) is the nation's favorite filler word.

Shopping in Malta leans toward artisan traditions. On Gozo, visit the *Ta' Dbiegi Crafts Village* for authentic Bizzilla (Maltese lace)—intricate, cream-colored bobbin lace that makes an heirloom souvenir. *Mdina Glass* produces luminous, swirled vases and bowls using techniques from Murano. For edible goods, stock up on pastizzi (flaky ricotta or pea-filled pastries) from a hole-in-the-wall pastizzerija. Local markets like *Is-Suq tal-Belt*, in a restored Victorian iron structure in Valletta, sell honey, olives and the bitter-sweet Kinnie soft drink, made from bitter oranges and aromatic herbs. For high-street brands and designer boutiques, head to Sliema's

waterfront promenade or the Bay Street complex in St. Julian's.

Maltese food is unpretentious, rustic and relies on the sea. The national dish is *Fenkata* (rabbit stew), slow-cooked in wine and garlic, reflecting a legend that the Knights ate rabbit out of necessity during sieges. For lunch, order *lampuki* (dorado) when in season (August–November), pan-fried or baked in a pie with spinach, raisins and pine nuts. *Aljotta* is a robust fish soup with tomatoes, garlic and fresh mint. On Gozo, try *bejniet*—small dried cheeselets made from sheep or goat's milk, served fresh, peppered or sun-dried in olive oil. For a classic meal: sit at a harbor-side table in *Marsaxlokk* and order grilled *sea bream*, a platter of *bigilla* (mashed broad bean dip) and a local *Cisk* lager. Finish with *kannoli*—crisp pastry tubes filled with sweet ricotta.

From the silent, ancient streets of Mdina, to the wild abandon of a village festa, Malta offers a journey through ten thousand years in a space smaller than most American cities. It is a place where every stone tells a story, and the Mediterranean is always, gloriously, within arm's reach. 🍷



Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Paul's Valetta



BY RENU SAGGAR

and Round of 16 clashes.

Don't go to the stadium expecting to tailgate. In a controversial move, organizers have announced zero spectator parking at MetLife Stadium on match days. Instead, the official entry method is the rail system. Special \$150 round-trip train shuttling fans from Secaucus Junction directly to the stadium. For those staying in Manhattan, an \$80 bus shuttle operates from the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

If you can't get a ticket to the game the *Fan Zones* are the place to be. The NY/NJ Host Committee has created a "Jersey Fan Hub" at *Sports Illustrated Stadium* in Harrison. For a \$10 entry fee (free for kids 12 and under), fans can sit on the stadium floor and watch the action on a 60-foot screen. The venue will feature the "Hype House," an open-air social club boasting a 360-degree bar and 20 large TVs. It is designed to provide that authentic stadium atmosphere even for those without game tickets.

Beyond the Hub, the "Flag Cities 2026"

North America Hosts World Cup

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is rewriting the rule book for global sporting events. For the first time, 48 teams and 104 matches will unfold across three nations—the United States, Canada and Mexico—over a feverish 39-day stretch from June 11 to July 19. But for the traveling fan, this historic tri-nation format presents both an unprecedented opportunity and a logistical puzzle. The epicenter of that puzzle and the tournament's grand finale, is the *MetLife Stadium* in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

It's a journey that encompasses much more than the 90 minutes on the pitch, it is about navigating the vibrant, chaotic and thrilling ecosystem of host cities, fan hubs and cross-border travel.

When the final whistle blows on July 19, all eyes will be on MetLife Stadium, which is slated to host eight matches, culminating in the World Cup Final. Leading up to the finale, the Garden State will host a gauntlet of global powerhouses: Brazil vs. Morocco (June 13), France vs.

Senegal (June 16), Ecuador vs. Germany (June 25) and England vs. Panama (June 27), followed by exciting Round of 32



series is spreading the wealth across the state. Sponsored by *Goya Foods*, these festivals will pop up in specific locations timed to match days: Jersey City: Christopher Columbus Drive (June 12), Overpeck Park, Bergen County: (June 14) Secaucus: Laurel Hill Park (June 21) Newark: Mulberry Plaza (June 24) East Rutherford/Rutherford: Downtown joint event (June 26).

These locations will feature food trucks, beer gardens, and live entertainment, allowing travelers to experience the distinct local cultures of New Jersey's diverse cities rather than being siloed in one massive compound.

While the final is in New Jersey, Canada is pulling out all the stops to ensure the entire country feels the energy. Toronto will host six matches, including Canada's group stage opener Bosnia versus Herzegovina on June 12, while Vancouver stages seven.

From June 11 to July 19, the *FIFA Fan Festival* will transform Toronto's historic Fort York and Vancouver's Hastings Park into free, high-energy celebration zones. Here is everything you need to know about experiencing the world's largest sporting event without spending your

rent money. General admission to the Toronto Fan Fest will be free. The venue, split between Fort York National Historic Site and the adjacent Bentway under the Gardiner Expressway, will accommodate up to 20,000 fans per day.

While the matches play on giant 4K screens, the stage will feature a heavy dose of Canadian talent. The lineup reads like a cross-section of 2000s nostalgia and modern hip-hop. Headliners include Alessia Cara the Grammy-winning pop star and Walk Off the Earth the viral indie sensations.

You still need a ticket for crowd control. Registration opened on May 6 at fwc26toronto.ca. The site will be open for all 46 matches, not just the six games played in Toronto.

If Toronto is the intimate block party, Vancouver is the arena rock tour. The Vancouver Fan Fest at Hastings Park (PNE) is significantly larger, boasting a capacity of 26,000 people.

However, Vancouver's setup is split into two distinct experiences. The Free Park Stage is free to enter and features daily concerts from the Sam Roberts Band, to Skip Marley and The Sheepdogs. The Premium Amphitheatre at the newly built

PNE Amphitheatre features headliners like Motley Crue.

For the sports looking for a unique cultural experience, the "Canada Celebrates" tour is the hidden gem. FIFA has orchestrated a 38-stop, 34-city caravan that runs from June 1 to July 19. This initiative brings live match viewings and football-themed activities within a two-hour drive of 75% of Canadians.

Highlights include a stop at Mount Pearl, Newfoundland (June 1), the historic Plains of Abraham in Quebec City (June 21), and a massive closing event in Niagara Falls and Brampton, Ontario, on the same weekend as the final (July 18-19).

For travelers, this means you do not have to be in a host stadium to feel the roar, you can be watching England vs. Germany from a vineyard in British Columbia or a pub in Halifax.

From the skyscrapers of Manhattan reflected in the Meadowlands to the rugged coastlines of Vancouver, the 2026 World Cup is a travel marathon, not a sprint. Pack comfortable shoes for the train stations, bring your passport for the border and prepare to celebrate not just the goals, but the diverse neighborhoods of North America. 🇺🇸



Superstar Lionel Messi holding the World Cup

Summer awaits you in Windsor-Essex County

Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge

BY RENU SAGGAR

Nestled in the heart of Windsor's, Little Italy *Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge* offers a refined and unforgettable culinary experience. This elegant establishment combines the essence of traditional Italian cuisine, with a contemporary twist, captivating guests with its exquisite flavors, and impeccable service. That's why it was voted Windsor's Top



Mezzo

Choice Italian Restaurant for 2026. The elegant interior, with its tasteful decor, soft lighting, and comfortable seating, creates an inviting and intimate atmosphere.

In Italian Mezzo means "half," describing the layout, split into two separate halves. One side is designated for formal

dining, while the other side is a casual bar and lounge.

At Mezzo, every detail is meticulously curated. From the expertly crafted menu, to the tables dressed in white linen, every aspect reflects a dedication to excellence. Savour a half dozen freshly shucked, delectable P.E.I. oysters or the lightly floured calamari tossed with onions and herbs, served with chipotle aioli.

A dinner favourite and award winner is Mezzo's pan-seared sesame encrusted sushi grade Ahi tuna with mango chutney.

Or, savour Mezzo's Beef Tenderloin, pan-seared 'AAA' beef tenderloin in a Cabernet Sauvignon reduction. Dessert lovers will find the in-house tiramisu is a must-try. Layered ladyfinger cookies soaked with liquor and espresso flavoured mascarpone cheese and topped with dusted chocolate. From exquisite Italian wines to international varietals, an extensive wine list is curated to complement the flavors of the food!

This not-to-be-missed experience goes far beyond innovative, award-winning cuisine. An eclectic contemporary atmosphere, specialty cocktails and live entertainment are the ingredients for one of Windsor's most appealing destinations.

Mezzo offers both indoor and outdoor dining. During the summer months the outdoor patio overlooking Via Italia, offers a romantic dining experience no matter the occasion. Sit under the secluded awning-covered patio, surrounded by lush greenery or a sunny, umbrella-shaded table in the open-air, area facing the main streetscape.

Supper Club is back by popular demand. Visit their website for further details. Mezzo is proud to introduce *Amore & Applause* — a limited-time Dinner & Show menu created exclusively for guests attending performances at Caesars Windsor. This elevated dining experience is thoughtfully timed so you can enjoy every course without missing a moment of the show.

Mezzo also offers all regular menu items for takeout and their dinner boxes have become an enormous success. 🍷

Visit them online at Mezzo.ca for a full menu and upcoming events!

Premium Casual Dining at Artisan Grill

Located at 269 Dalhousie Street, the Artisan Grill has established itself as a premier destination for casual fine dining. This culinary gem marries exceptional, contemporary flavors with the rich heritage of its surroundings, making it a beloved fixture for both locals and visitors.

Founded in 2012 by Owner and Chef Matthew Johnston, who previously honed his craft at prestigious venues like the Chateau Lake Louise, the kitchen operates under the philosophy that "food is our passion, excellence is our expectation". The diverse, rotating seasonal menu satisfies a wide variety of palates and dietary needs, featuring a robust selection of clearly



Artisan Grill

labeled gluten-free options. Guest favorites span a versatile culinary spectrum, ranging from upscale classics like a 16-ounce bone-in rib eye steak, lobster thermidor and rack of lamb. Casual favorites include the Classic Artisan Burger: A juicy

beef patty topped with crispy bacon and melted cheddar on a toasted bun.

Their Summer Collection seasonal menu features sensational new dishes, as well as old favorites like Blackened Halibut: Pan-seared halibut with Cajun spices, finished with a fresh

mango and avocado salsa. Many items that can be modified to accommodate special requests.

Artisan Grill's packages feature great options for every taste and budget, which can make planning your party a breeze! Custom menus are just a conversation away!

A well-curated selection of wines pair nicely with the menu as well as craft cocktails and beer. An international and Canadian wine list, showcasing selections from local, award-winning Essex County wineries. Enjoy a \$5 espresso martinis everyday. The classic Espresso Martini is a rich, balanced and caffeinated cocktail. It's shaken, not stirred to create the drink's signature velvety foam top.

Get ready for Summer Weekends on the riverfront patio beginning in June. Spend a magical evening under the stars watching the ships go by. It's a very popular spot, so reservations are highly recommended, especially on weekends.

Every Friday and Saturday night, the restaurant hosts live acoustic dinner music, elevating the cozy interior into a vibrant, romantic setting. The restaurant features a bold new look with all new furnishings, including cozy corners with comfy sofas.

Whether you are seeking a relaxed lunch after exploring the nearby Detroit River walk or planning a special date night, the Artisan Grill delivers top-tier service, historic charm and unforgettable culinary craftsmanship.

Artisan's team is standing by to take your reservation for your corporate event, graduation party, birthday, anniversary or any special occasion or milestone event. 🍷

Visit them online at artisangrill.ca.



MEZZO

WHERE STYLE MEETS TASTE



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A La Mode Has A Passion For Fashion

Located in the heart of Amherstburg, A La Mode ladies fashions brings you the top-notch collections from Europe, Canada, USA and much more! Shopping at A La Mode is an experience. The Staff are friendly and knowledgeable and assist you in finding what exactly you're looking for. What sets A La Mode apart is its ability to combine the latest fashion



Shannon Passero at A La Mode

trends with timeless pieces that withstand the test of time.

A La Mode brings you top-notch collections from Europe, Canada, and much more. You won't find the originality and comfort of their clothes anywhere else! They carry a wide variety of styles, taking you from day casual to evening chic!

Top lines for spring include *Masai*, *Culture* and *Cream* from Denmark and Shannon Passero a Canadian brand.

Founded by two siblings in Copenhagen in 1992, Masai Copenhagen clothing is designed for fashion-conscious women who prefer a relaxed, unique style utilizing fine, sustainable fabrics and love of details. Their signature shapes flatter every woman and are wonderfully comfortable to wear and designed to accent the creative lives of woman everywhere. Summer

features their iconic shapes in new designs, uplifting colors and stunning hand-drawn prints that you'll look forward to wearing.

Culture is another Danish brand specializing in bohemian-inspired, feminine and comfortable clothing with a Scandinavian, minimalist aesthetic. Known for quality materials, versatile designs and earthy, neutral tones, the brand offers jackets, blouses, dresses and pants designed for effortless everyday wear combining femininity with an "effortless cool".

Cream, a well known Danish designer exudes bohemian chic and femininity. From delicate blouses and beautiful dresses to practical basics, each style is designed with a touch of romance.

Shannon Passero, a Canadian fashion designer celebrated for her sustainable, earth friendly approach to everyday style. Utilizing small batch and artisanal made pieces each piece makes a statement. With ethical practices at its core every collection evolves with a focus on sustainability, using upcycled and locally sourced materials.

A La Mode also carries a great selection of accessories: purses, jewelry, shoes from *Miz Mooz* and *Django And Juliette* plus much more. Join them on Facebook every Monday at 9 a.m. and Thursday at 5 p.m. for their live stream fashion shows featuring fun outfits and ensemble inspirations! For all your alterations, visit Pavel's Tailor Shop located in A La Mode. It is an independent business located at the top floor of the store.

A La Mode is located at 52 Richmond Street in Amherstburg. Visit their website alamodefashions.ca for store hours.

An advertisement for Masai Copenhagen clothing. The background is a soft-focus image of two women. On the left, a woman with dark hair is sitting and resting her head on her hand, wearing a light blue, long-sleeved, ruffled blouse. On the right, a woman with blonde hair is standing and smiling, wearing a long, light-colored trench coat over a dark blue patterned scarf and a dark blue patterned top. The text is centered over the image.

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