

FALL/WINTER 2025 — \$3.95

Crossings



Ohio

Michigan

New Jersey

Mexico Beach, FL

Panama City Beach, FL

Bali

Banff

Montréal

Azamara Cruises

Windsor-Essex County

A photograph of two women standing in front of a waterfall. The woman on the left is wearing a pink beanie, sunglasses, a purple long-sleeve shirt, and a black puffer jacket. The woman on the right is wearing a black beanie, sunglasses, a purple long-sleeve shirt, and a black puffer jacket. They are both smiling. The background features a waterfall cascading over rocks, with some icicles hanging from the top. The ground is wet and reflective.

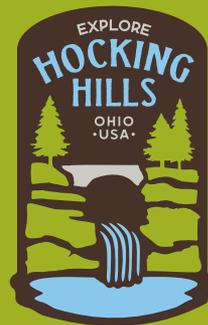
WELCOME TO
Wander



**The hush of the forest;
the rush of the river;
the vastness of the sky.**

In the heart of Ohio's Hocking Hills, every step unveils a new wonder. Experience the joy of discovery, the thrill of adventure and the whisper of wilderness. Hike ancient trails carved by time, zip through treetops, or simply sit and watch the world slow down. Here, nature calls you to explore — and to reconnect with what matters most.

Whether you seek the rush of exploration or the serenity of a sunset, the Hocking Hills welcomes you with open arms. Let the wonders unfold.



Call or click for your
free Visitor's Guide:
1-800-Hocking
ExploreHockingHills.com



Crossings

Volume 25, Number 3, Fall Winter 2025

Life & Style

37

LEAN INTO LANSING

Michigan's capital is well worth the drive.

40

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN FLINT

Seasons greetings from Flint and Genesee County.

41

WHERE LEARNING IS FUN

Dinosaurs invade Sloan Museum of Discovery.

39

GRAND HAVEN MICHIGAN

Bundle up for winter fun in this timeless resort town.

Free Wheeling

26

THE MEADOWLANDS

New Jersey's biggest attractions are right here.

28

SOUTH JERSEY

A seasonal blend of history, culture and celebrations.

30

HUDSON COUNTY NJ

Gateway to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

32

SUSSEX SKYLANDS

Celebrate the season at the Crystal Springs Resort.

60

WINDSOR & AMHERSTBURG

Things start to heat up when temperatures cool down.



Delhi 059

Bringing an authentic taste of Delhi to Windsor, ON

8

RUN FOR THE HILLS

Ohio's Hocking Hills are a fall and winter wonderland.

12

TRALIBLAZING IN WAYNE COUNTY OHIO

It's perfect for those who like their getaways on the move.

14

A WINTER'S TALE IN OHIO

Indoors or out, fall and winter are ripe for an Ohio adventure.

21

MUST DO'S IN MERCER COUNTY PA

Come for the tax free shopping, stay for the adventure.

22

WHERE THE BEACH KNOWS NO BORDER

Get some sand in your shoes in Panama City Beach Florida.

24

THE UNFORGETTABLE COAST

Slow down and relax in Florida's Mexico Beach.

36

COLDWATER COUNTRY

Winter is cool in Michigan's Coldwater.

38

MAKE MINE MARQUETTE

Embrace the magic of fall and winter in Marquette County Michigan.

44

MONTRÉAL IS A FRENCH KISS

Montréal is famous for its history, culture and nightlife.

46

THE ISLAND OF THE GODS

The sunsets don't just colour the sky — they reset your soul.

48

BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVES

Follow your star to the United Kingdom onboard Azamara Cruises.

50

BANFF IS A ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

There's nothing like the view from Canada's Rooftop.

Cover: Banff National Park

Discover the Moments That Matter



Embrace Fall and Winter in Flint & Genesee

Cool air, glowing lights, and memorable moments. Flint & Genesee shifts gently from autumn's color into winter warmth. Enjoy orchard strolls, quiet trails, and the changing leaves. As winter sets in, evenings bring holiday shows, holiday walks, and shops with seasonal treats. There's beauty and calm to be found here, if you're ready to slow down and explore.



ExploreFlintandGenesee.org



taste the
PASSION
we put into our menu

ARTISAN

AFFORDABLE PREMIUM CASUAL DINING

269 DALHOUSIE AMHERSTBURG
519.713.9009 artisangrill.ca

Crossings

EDITORIAL

Publisher	AJR Publishing
Managing Editor	Renu Saggarr
Art Director	Wayne Mansfield
Assistant Editor	Adelina Irvine
Contributing Editors	Parker Zone Gail Mero-O'Neil

ADVERTISING

National Sales	Renu Saggarr
	1455 Normandy LaSalle, ON N9J 3N1
Phone:	519-969-7646
Fax:	519-969-1066
Email:	Renu_Crossings@hotmail.com

AJR PUBLISHING INC.

President	Renu Saggarr
Office Manager	Adelina Irvine
Email:	AdelinaIrvine@hotmail.ca

Crossings Magazine is published by AJR Publishing Inc. Editorial and advertising offices: 1455 Normandy, LaSalle, Ontario, Canada, N9J 3N1. Annual subscription rate is \$17.85 plus HST. Published three times a year in Spring, Summer and Fall/Winter. The information in this magazine has been published in good faith and every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Manuscripts and photographs submitted for editorial consideration must be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope and return postage. Copyright © 2025. The publisher will not be held responsible for loss or destruction of unsolicited material. Advertising agencies and advertisers assume full and complete liability for all content (including text, representation and illustrations) of advertisements and also assume responsibility for any claims arising thereof made against the publisher. Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited.

www.CrossingsMagazine.ca

Copyright © 2025 All rights reserved.

PRINTED IN CANADA



OVER 500,000
TREES PLANTED

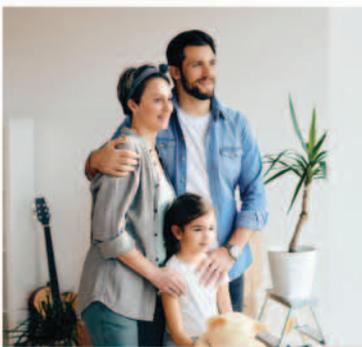


Dr. Sapna Saggar

Clinical Psychotherapist

Dr. Saggar 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.*

We Offer Specialized Assessments Including ADOS-2



Family Therapy



Individual Therapy



Couples Therapy



Transformative Therapy

- Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) • Anxiety • Social Anxiety • Phobias • Depression
- Borderline Personality Disorder (BDP) • Insomnia • Smoking Cessation • Addiction • ADHD • Emotional Regulation
- Anger Management • Grief/Bereavement • Self-Esteem • Self-Worth • Life Transitions

✉ blueangelpsychotherapy@gmail.com

🌐 www.blueangelpsychotherapy.ca

☎ (365) 355-2515 📞 (365) 200-2502

479 Dundas St W.,
Oakville, Ontario L6M 1L9

Services also available in Windsor and Essex County



Cedar Falls

BY RENU SAGGAR

and high walls framed by falling leaves.

As winter takes hold, the landscape becomes a study in monochrome beauty and serene power. *Ash Cave* transforms into a colossal, drapery of ice, its massive recess cave echoing with the soft drip of melting ice. *Cedar Falls*, Ohio's largest waterfall, often freezes into a magnificent sculpture, a silent testament to nature's artistry. For the truly adventurous, a winter hike under a full moon, when the snow-covered ground glows and the frozen features gleam, is an experience of pure, ethereal magic.

Beyond hiking, ziplining with companies like *Hocking Hills Canopy Tours* offers a soaring view of the fall colors or the stark, beautiful bones of the winter forest. Horseback riding through the trails with stables like *Broken Rock Stables* provides a clip clopping counterpoint to the serene beauty of the season.

Hocking Hills accommodations are famously dominated by cabins and for good reason. From rustic, no-frills retreats, to breathtaking luxury lodges with floor-to-ceiling windows and full gourmet kitchens, there is a cabin for every

Play it Cool in the Hocking Hills

The rolling foothills of Appalachian Ohio, experience a remarkable transformation every autumn. As the summer haze lifts, the vast canopy of Hocking Hills State Park ignites into a brilliant tapestry of crimson, gold and amber. What follows is a hush, a frost-kissed quiet where waterfalls freeze in mid-cascade and snow blankets the hemlock groves. For those seeking solace, adventure and rustic charm, fall and winter here are magical and a cause for celebration.

The journey itself is part of the magic. Winding roads like State Route 374 descend into a world that feels both timeless and thrillingly alive. The air, crisp and clean, carries the scent of damp earth, decaying leaves and wood smoke—the quintessential perfume of autumn giving way to the sharp, clean cold of winter.

In the fall, hiking becomes a pilgrimage through a kaleidoscope of color. *Old Man's Cave* offers a spectacular gorge trail where the colors seem to blaze even brighter against the backdrop of Black-hand sandstone cliffs and waterfalls. The *Conkle's Hollow Rim Trail* provides a bird's-eye view of the fire below, a

dizzying and breathtaking panorama of the entire valley awash in color. For a quieter experience, *Cantwell Cliffs* feels remote and powerful, its narrow fissures



Conkle's Hollow Rim Trail

desire. Companies like *Getaway Cabins* and *Hocking Hills Lodging Co.* offer a vast portfolio. For a truly unique experience, consider a stay in a treehouse or a yurt, which blend adventure with comfort in the most enchanting way.

For those preferring a more traditional stay, the *Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls* is a destination in itself. This collection of rustic-chic cabins, cottages and a historic inn building also houses one of the region's finest restaurants and spas. Similarly, *Glenlaurel Inn* offers a Scottish-inspired estate experience with upscale dining and crofts tucked into the hillside.

Dining in the Hocking Hills is a celebration of comfort and local flavor. This is not a place for fussy small plates, but for hearty, satisfying meals that warm you from the inside out.

The Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls' restaurant is a fine-dining standout, focusing on seasonal, regional cuisine in a romantic, rustic setting. Reservations are essential. For a more casual but equally delicious meal, *Kindred Spirits* in Logan offers a creative menu in a cozy, pub-like atmosphere that's perfect for post-hike reflection.

A trip to Hocking Hills isn't complete without a visit to the *Olde Dutch Restau-*

rant in Logan, a legendary buffet offering Amish-style comfort food—fried chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles and pies—that will fuel you for a full day of exploration. For a sweet treat, Hocking Hills *Maple Sap Shack* offers homemade donuts, maple syrup and ice cream.

In winter, the quest for warmth leads to spots like *Millstone Southern BBQ*, where the smoky scent and hearty barbecue provide the perfect antidote to the cold. And for a truly unique experience, *Rhapsody* offers musical dining events in an intimate, reservation-only setting.

After miles of trails and chilly air, your muscles will thank you for a visit to one of the region's exceptional spas. The Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls provides a serene, professional environment with treatments like the "Hocking Hills Stone Massage" that incorporate local elements. Glenlaurel Inn's spa offers bespoke treatments in keeping with its Scottish theme. For a more bohemian and holistic vibe, *Spa at the Wind Chimes* in Logan offers reiki, massage and a charming gift shop.

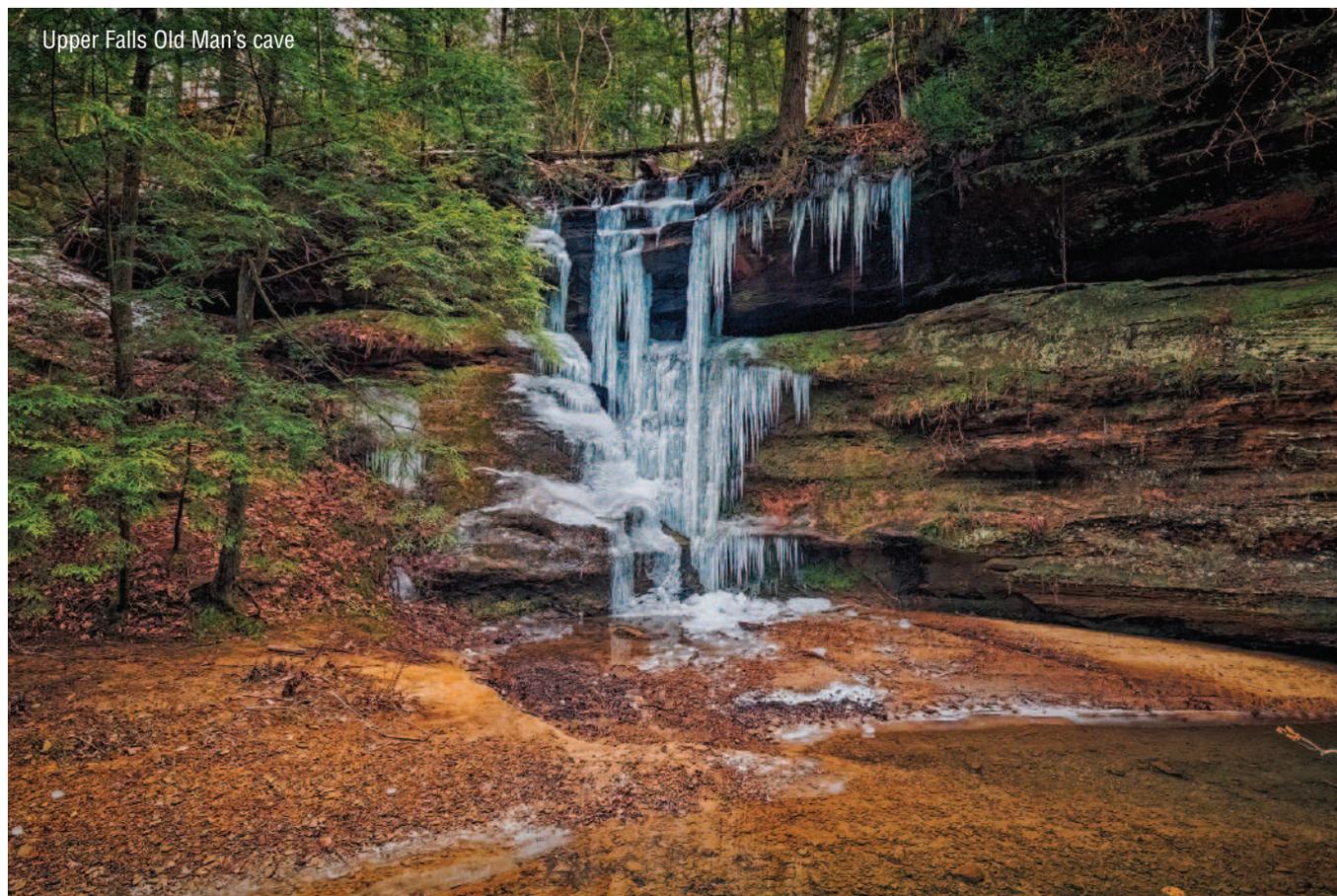
Beyond the spa, take time to explore the local artisan scene. The Hocking Hills Regional Welcome Center is an excellent starting point for maps and information,

but also houses a gallery of beautiful local crafts. Quaint shops in Logan and small villages offer everything from handmade pottery and blown glass, to local wines at spots like *Hocking Hills Winery*.

Plan your visit around one of the area's famous seasonal events. In fall, the Hocking Hills Fall Hike in October is a historic tradition, offering guided hikes through the parks at peak color. The *Hocking Hills Festival of Autumn* fills the small town of Laurelville with crafts, food and live music.

In winter, the *Hocking Hills Winter Hike* in January draws thousands for a guided, 6-mile journey from Old Man's Cave to Ash Cave, often culminating with bean soup and hot chocolate—a decades-old tradition. The *Christmas in the Village* event in *Rockbridge* is a perfect way to lean into the holiday spirit with festive lights and cheer.

The Hocking Hills in fall and winter is more than a destination. It's the warmth of a wood fire against the chill, the awe of a frozen waterfall, the profound quiet of a snow-covered forest and the deep, satisfying comfort of a hearty meal after a day of adventure. Explore HockingHills.com for more information. 📍



BY RENU SAGGAR



Rest Easy at Choice Hotels Ohio

Autumn's colors blaze and winter's charm settles over the state, travelers are planning cozy getaways to experience Ohio's seasonal beauty. With Choice Hotels strategically located throughout the Buckeye State, you'll find the perfect warm haven to return to after a day of exploration. Their rich portfolio of diverse brands offers a range of accommodations that cater to every traveler's wants and needs.

The Brands under the Choice Hotels umbrella include: Ascend, Comfort Inn, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, Clarion, Clarion Pointe and Mainstay Suites. They offer budget-friendly options to upscale experiences, keeping their commitment to quality, comfort and exceptional service. Comfort and Quality brands provide a balance between warmth and affordability. Quality Inn & Suites delivers a dependable stay, known for its clean, well-appointed rooms and complimentary amenities. It's an ideal base for families visiting holiday light displays, road trippers seeking a comfortable stop and business travelers alike. Start a crisp morning with a hearty, complimentary breakfast before heading out. Traveling with furry friends? Select Quality Inn locations that welcome pets, so no one gets left in the cold.

A step up in amenities, Comfort Inn & Suites focuses on delivering a more elevated experience. After a day spent hiking through fall foliage or browsing

a winter market, guests can unwind in modern rooms with plush bedding. An indoor pool offers year-round relaxation, while spacious suites with microwaves and refrigerators are perfect for storing seasonal treats or warming up a drink.

Travel seamlessly with the new Choice Hotels® Mobile App. It's the easiest way to find hotels and reserve at the lowest rate, review and redeem your Choice Privileges® rewards and manage reservations on the go.

Guests can join the award-winning Choice Privileges® loyalty rewards program, top-rated by U.S. News & World Report. Membership is free and offers fast rewards, instant perks and exclusive member rates when booking directly. Earn points to redeem for free nights, perfect for your next seasonal escape.

Whether you're planning a scenic fall foliage tour, a holiday shopping trip or a winter weekend retreat, Choice Hotels provides the perfect home base across the Buckeye State, ensuring your seasonal adventure is both memorable and comfortable. 🍂

Start planning your fall foliage tour or winter retreat at [ChoiceHotels.com/Ohio](https://www.choicehotels.com/Ohio).



Quality Inn Guest Room

ASCEND
HOTELS



CHECK INTO MORE IN OHIO

BOOK DIRECT AND PAY IN
ADVANCE TO SAVE UP TO 15%*

Visit [ChoiceHotels.com/Ohio](https://www.ChoiceHotels.com/Ohio) or call
1-877-424-6423 to get our lowest price guaranteed.**

Columbus, OH



*Rate Restrictions: Valid only for Choice Privileges members (program enrollment is free). The reservation must be made on ChoiceHotels.com at participating hotels and must be made at least 7, 14, 21 or 30 days in advance, which will vary based on the hotel for which a reservation is being made. Subject to availability, the rate starts at 15% off Best Available Rate, is non-cancellable, non-changeable and non-refundable. Your credit card will be charged for the total reservation amount within 24-48 hours of booking. This rate has a seven (7) night maximum length of stay. Rooms at this discount are limited. Offer is not available to groups and cannot be combined with any other discount. Choice Hotels reserves the right to change or discontinue this offer at any time. Eligibility restricted to U.S. and Canadian residents. Members must book direct at <https://www.ChoiceHotels.com/Ohio> or call 1-877-424-6423. All Choice Hotels properties are independently owned and operated. **Guarantee applies to Third Party Website standard rates for a Choice single or double occupancy room that are at least 1% and \$1.00 less than the Choice rate. Claims must be submitted within 24 hours of booking and 48+ hours prior to 6 PM check-in time the day of hotel arrival. Other terms also apply; see www.choicehotels.com/legal/best-rate-rules for full terms and conditions. ©2025 Choice Hotels International. All rights reserved.



wayne County parks

Go Trailblazing in Wayne County

For active adults who crave fresh air, scenic trails and a bit of cardio with their travel, Wayne County, Ohio, is a hidden treasure. Located between Cleveland and Columbus, this region is packed with hiking and biking trails, nature preserves and charming small-town vibes—perfect for those who like their getaways on the move.

Trailblazing Through Wayne County

Wayne County's trail network is a dream for hikers and cyclists. The *Sippo Valley Trail*, a 10-mile paved path connecting Dalton to Massillon, is ideal for cyclists of all levels. It winds through farmland and woodlands, offering a peaceful yet invigorating ride.

For hikers, *Wooster Memorial Park* (Spangler Park) is a must. With over nine miles of trails, this 320-acre park delivers a rugged, backcountry feel just minutes from downtown Wooster. Trails range from moderate to challenging, winding through ravines, forests and along *Rathburn Run*.

Nature Preserves That Inspire

Wayne County is home to some of Ohio's most unique natural habitats. *Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve* features a mile-long boardwalk through one of the state's last old-growth forests. Towering oaks and maples create a cathedral-like canopy that's especially stunning in fall.

Another gem is *Brown's Lake Bog*, a glacial bog with rare plant species and a short trail that feels like stepping into another world. It's a quiet, contemplative stop for nature lovers and photographers.

Biking Beyond the Pavement

Beyond the paved trails, Wayne County's rural roads offer low traffic cycling routes with rolling hills and sweeping views. The Rails-to-Trails system continues to grow, connecting communities and offering scenic rides through Amish farmland and quiet countryside.

Camp Under the Stars

After a day of adventure, unwind under the stars. While public campgrounds are limited, nearby private sites and state parks offer excellent tent and RV camping. Many are close to trailheads, making it easy to roll out of your sleeping bag and hit the trail.

Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area, Ohio's largest inland wetland, is a birding paradise with primitive access and nearby ac-

commodations. It's a great spot for early morning hikes and wildlife photography.

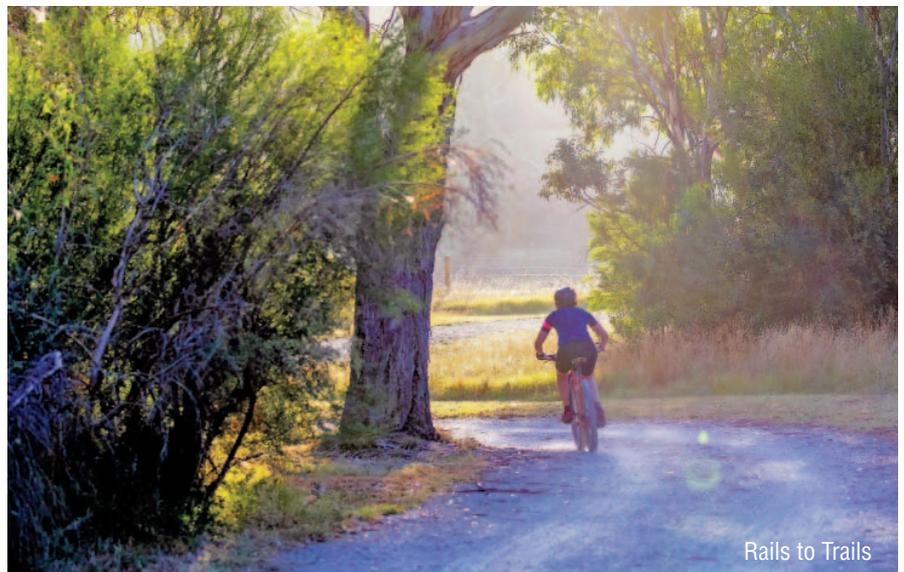
More Than Just Trails

Wayne County's outdoor appeal goes beyond hiking and biking. The *Secrest Arboretum* offers beautifully landscaped walking paths and gardens, while *Barnes Preserve* features ADA-accessible trails and a scenic pavilion for picnics.

Freedlander Park even has an observatory for stargazing nights, perfect for winding down after a day of exploration.

Tips for First-Time Visitors

- **Pack for Variety:** Trails range from paved to rugged, so bring both hiking boots and comfortable cycling shoes.
- **Start Early:** Popular spots like *Wooster Memorial Park* and *Johnson Woods* are best enjoyed in the morning when trails are quieter and wildlife is more active.
- **Bring Binoculars:** *Killbuck Marsh* and *Brown's Lake Bog* are birding hot spots—don't miss the chance to spot herons, warblers and even bald eagles.
- **Check Trail Conditions:** Some trails can get muddy after rain. Visit local park websites or call ahead for updates.
- **Stay Hydrated:** While many parks have restrooms, water fountains may be limited. Bring a refillable bottle.
- **Explore Local Eats:** Treat yourself to farm-to-table dining in downtown Wooster or a homemade pie from a local Amish bakery.
- **Nature:** Stay on marked trails, pack out trash and avoid disturbing wildlife—Wayne County's beauty depends on responsible visitors. Start planning at VisitWayneCountyOhio.com. 📱



Rails to Trails

A romantic couple is sitting on a white blanket with colorful pillows in a vineyard. The woman, on the left, has long dark hair and a tattoo on her right arm. The man, on the right, is wearing a dark polo shirt. They are both smiling and holding glasses of red wine. The background shows rows of grapevines under a warm, golden sunset sky.

CROSSROADS OF
CULTURE &
COUNTRYSIDE

VISIT
Wayne County
OHIO

www.VisitWayneCountyOhio.com

330-264-1800

info@visitwaynecountyohio.com



Spacelander Bicycle designed 1946 at Bicycle Museum of America

BY RENU SAGGAR

a meditative experience unlike any other time of year.

This season also offers a spectacular reward for wildlife enthusiasts, the bald eagle. Once endangered, these majestic birds have made a tremendous comeback and now thrive in the rich habitat around Grand Lake St. Marys. Winter is prime viewing time, as they congregate near open water to fish. Bundle up, bring binoculars and station yourself at one of the lake's access points or parks. The sight of a bald eagle soaring over the partially frozen lake, its white head and tail contrasting against the grey winter sky, is a breathtaking and unforgettable spectacle.

Your day of exploration ends best by cozying up in a local lodge or a charming bed and breakfast, reflecting on a day

spent touching moon rocks, marveling at classic bicycles and witnessing America's symbol of freedom in the wild. Greater Grand Lake St. Marys in the off-season proves that adventure doesn't end with summer, it simply changes its form, offering a unique blend of education, tranquility and natural drama. Visit seemore.org for more information.

Holiday Magic in Ohio's Amish Country

Experience the magic of the holidays and the winter season in Holmes County, the heart of Ohio Amish Country, where charming towns transform into a winter wonderland filled with twinkling lights, festive traditions and warm hospitality. Whether you're searching for meaningful gifts, savory hearty meals or making memories at one-of-a-kind events, a holiday visit to Holmes County is sure to become a cherished tradition.

Enjoy a Winterlude in Ohio

Greater Grand Lake Region

As the vibrant fall foliage gives way to the stark, elegant beauty of winter, Greater Grand Lake St. Marys in western Ohio reveals a quieter, yet profoundly captivating side. This season is not a time of closure, but an invitation to explore a unique blend of world-class indoor museums and serene, frost-kissed outdoor adventures.

When the chill in the air nips a little harder, the region's exceptional indoor attractions provide warmth and wonder. A crown jewel is the *Armstrong Air & Space Museum* in Wapakoneta, a striking futuristic dome that pays homage to its native son, *Neil Armstrong*. Stepping inside is like stepping into history, surrounded by artifacts from the space race, including the actual Gemini VIII spacecraft and a moon rock you can touch. It's a captivating journey that inspires awe and is a perfect refuge on a cold afternoon.

Just a short drive away in New Bremen, the *Bicycle Museum of America* offers a delightful and unexpected journey through time. Housed in a beautifully restored 1930s post office, it showcases one of the largest private collections of bicycles in the world. From high-wheeled ordinaries, to classic Schwinn and pop-culture icons like the bicycle from Pee-wee's Big Adventure, the museum is a whimsical and fascinating tribute to two-wheeled transportation that delights all ages.

For those who crave the outdoors, the crisp air of late fall and winter provides a perfect backdrop for exploration. The landscape, stripped of its summer greenery, offers unobstructed views and a peaceful solitude. Hikers and bikers can find solace on the extensive network of trails, like the *Wabash Cannonball Trail* or paths around the lake's perimeter. The cold-weather silence, broken only by the crunch of frost underfoot, creates



Holmes County Ohio

The season comes alive with festive events that bring the community together. In Berlin, the *Live Nativity Parade* tells the Christmas story with animals, carolers and glowing lanterns that join to welcome the holiday season. Walnut Creek shines during their *Christmas in the Village* tree and candle lighting event that warms the spirit followed by the Journey to Bethlehem event that invites guests to experience a moving, interactive retelling of the first Christmas. Visitors to *Historic Downtown Millersburg* can delight in events like the *Chocolate Walk*, where chocolate lovers collect chocolates at participating shops while enjoying sales, special events and holiday fun.

Skip the crowded malls and mass-produced items and instead discover handcrafted, American-made treasures. From hand-carved wooden toys and heirloom-quality gifts to locally made candles, soaps, beautiful wood fired pottery and fine leather goods, every purchase supports small businesses and local artisans. Strolling through the shops of Charm, Mt. Hope, Berlin, Walnut Creek or Millersburg, you'll find thoughtful gifts that are as unique as the loved ones you're shopping for!

Ernest "Mooney" Warther, was a master wood carver who created 64 scaled and working models documenting the history of the steam engine in incredible detail. The *Warther Museum & Gardens*, in Dover, is where you can see the artist's entire collection as well as his home and his studio.

The holidays provide the perfect time to gather around the table and Ohio Amish Country offers no shortage of delicious dining experiences. *Mrs. Yoder's Kitchen*, *The Amish Door* and *Boyd & Wurthmann* serve up Amish-inspired meals like roasted turkey with dressing, creamy mashed potatoes, homemade noodles and pies baked fresh that morning. Cozy up at the

Blue Sky Café with a specialty coffee and freshly made donuts or venture into one of the many area bakeries for fresh baked bread, cookies, fry pies and irresistible holiday treats.

A visit to Ohio Amish Country is best enjoyed at a slower pace and the area's cottages, cabins and charming inns provide the perfect retreat that feels like stepping into a winter wonderland postcard. Whether you're seeking meaningful gifts, delicious meals, magical holiday experiences or a serene winter retreat, Ohio Amish Country offers the perfect getaway. visitamishcountry.com for more information.

Medina is Filled With the Holiday Spirit

When the temperature drops, there's no shortage of fun to be had indoors in Medina County! Picture yourself at a few of their must-see destinations, restaurants and places to gather with family and friends as you celebrate the indoor season. Relax for the weekend in exceptional hotels and plan to join them for a few of their signature events.

Hemingway's Underground is a new 21 and over speakeasy themed destination, fully equipped to take away seasonal blues! Immerse yourself underground for spirits, mocktails and an eclectic Greek inspired menu, paired with thoughtfully crafted beverages. Reservations are strongly recommended to ensure your party can enjoy a few hours of fun.

No holiday is complete without a trip to *Castle Noel*. America's largest indoor Christmas attraction will guide you through halls decorated in past Christmases with holiday movie highlights and whisk you back to your childhood movie favorites. Tickets must be purchased online. If you need some more fun in the same location, travel a few steps away to *Alien Mini Golf* where you're sure to be visited by 3D aliens and their crazy shenani-

**Grab the kids, honey.
We're taking off for
the day.**

**This
is west
Ohio.**

 **Grand
Lake
Region**

seemore.org/dream

gans and adventures. It's truly an out of this world experience.

Anytime is a good time for books! *Black Cat Books* and *Oddities* boast two houses, reimaged into cozy reading rooms, children hideaways and a unique book shopping experience. Spend a few hours checking out your favorite authors, organized by themes including the ever-popular banned books section. Go to their website for specials, events, book clubs and chances to meet your favorite authors.

Candlelight Walk in downtown Medina has welcomed residents and visitors for over 40 years. This signature event has become a beloved pastime to officially kick off the holiday season. With choirs and music in the center of the park's gazebo, shopping specials, lighting ceremonies, parade of lights and fireworks, Medina welcomes you to start your holiday with a bang!



Elsewhere in the county, *Escape in Wadsworth* offers a chance to use your wits to find the way out and *Dolce* offers a frozen reward for your escape! The *Vue* offers an upscale atmosphere with fine dining and a beautiful setting for the perfect getaway.

Market 42 in Brunswick makes it easy for your friends and family to make their own choice for dinner. With over 15 popular restaurant choices and several shopping venues, you can make an afternoon and evening at these dining attractions all under one roof. From burgers to ice cream and a complete bar, you're sure to find a favorite or two at Market 42! You're invited to picture yourself enjoying Medina County! For more information, Visitmedinacounty.com.

Exploring the Rich History in Miami County

From unique attractions, historic downtowns, events and outdoor adventure, Miami County has something for you!

Miami County is a story of captivating history and early innovation. *WACO Air Museum* was once the world's biggest producer of Biplanes. Come learn their history and maybe take a ride in *Sunny*, the resident WACO biplane. Visitors will be met by amazing examples of historic planes and displays explaining how they helped shape aviation. WACO aircraft were known for their exceptional quality, design and versatility and they were used for everything from private travel, to barnstorming, air racing and military use.

The *Halderman Museum Barn* is home to the personal collection of Tipp City native *Gale Halderman*. The designer of the original Ford Mustang, he worked for Ford for over four decades. Visitors can explore fascinating displays and information about the Mustang's story, along with special cars on exhibit.

At *Johnston Farm & Indian Agency* visitors can learn about



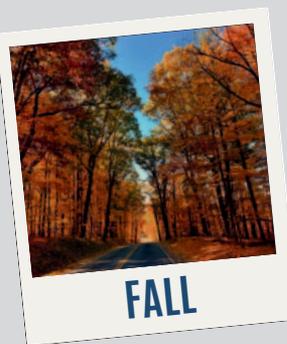
**NOTHING BEATS THE FALL
AND WINTER MONTHS IN
MEDINA COUNTY**



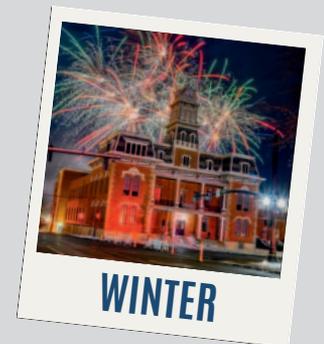
**MEDINA
COUNTY**
OHIO
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Scan QR Code to discover more of what Medina County has to offer!



FALL



WINTER

early settlers while aboard the *General Harrison of Piqua*, a replica 70-foot-long 19th century canal boat pulled by mules on a restored section of the Miami Erie Canal.

Browse the *Bradford Railroad Museum's* collection of railroad artifacts and memorabilia and the five-acre *Miami Valley Veterans Museum* with exhibits honoring and preserving the legacy of veterans from 1745 to present day. Finally, enjoy a whiskey tasting at *Indian Creek Distillery* and learn their six-generation distilling history. A "true sip of history," their unique small batch whiskeys are where art, science and heritage combine to produce a spirit like no other.

Enjoy these historical attractions and more with the *Miami County History Pass*. The Miami County Visitors & Convention Bureau launched this pass to celebrate America's upcoming 250th birthday and the area's history. This pass is a free digital

guide designed to take residents and visitors on a journey to local museums, historic sites, murals and sculptures. Users will be able to check in at participating locations to earn prizes. This pass connects people with the region's deep history through interactive experiences.

With over 30 locations, it is sure to be a fun, educational way to learn about Miami County history. This mobile-exclusive pass is delivered via text or email and is for participants 18 years of age or older. To learn more or sign up, visit <https://www.homegrowinggreat.com/trails/miami-county-history-pass/>.

Miami County has so much to share with you. Come for a visit and experience for yourself why they are *Home.Grown.Great*. Plan your next adventure at <https://www.homegrowinggreat.com/>.

Escape to Fulton County

Nestled amid the quiet, rolling farmlands of Northwest Ohio, Fulton County offers a refreshing escape from the holiday hustle, inviting travelers to experience the genuine warmth of Midwestern hospitality. When the vibrant fall colors have faded, a different kind of magic settles over the towns of Wauseon, Archbold and Swanton, transforming the region into a cozy winter haven rich with local charm, festive events and comfort food.

Sauder Village in Archbold, is a living history museum that recreates 19th-century life. Explore meticulously recreated buildings, witness demonstrations of old-world crafts and take a nostalgic ride on a horse-drawn carriage. Sample traditional Amish cuisine at one of the village restaurants and immerse yourself in the rich heritage of the region.

As the holiday season approaches, the county calendar fills



OFFERING THE UNEXPECTED

Shopping, Food & Brews, Places to Stay, and more.

Ohio Amish Country offers a retreat into a simpler pace. Here, life unfolds with purpose. Roads curve through fields that stretch beyond sight, where you'll discover exciting new destinations, one-of-a-kind experiences, and renowned cultural attractions. The clip-clop of buggies marks the rhythm of the day, a steady reminder of the past that feels present, not nostalgic. In Ohio Amish Country, adventure awaits at every turn.

Living Life Simply,
Holmes County & Beyond.



visitamishcountry.com
(330) 674-3975

VISIT
AMISH COUNTRY
Ohio

with cherished events that light up the crisp winter air. The festivities kick off with the spectacular *Holiday Light Parade* in Wauseon, typically held the weekend before Thanksgiving, where the historic downtown becomes a canvas of dazzling floats and community spirit.

This event ushers in the season, perfectly timed with *Small Business Saturday*, encouraging visitors to explore the unique, independent shops that line Fulton Street. The merriment continues into December with Archbold's Christmas in the Park, a breathtaking display at *Ruihley Park* that invites families to drive through a wonderland of twinkling lights, a beloved tradition for generations.

Shopping here is a treasure hunt for the unique and handcrafted items. Archbold, the soul of Fulton County retail, is famous for its specialty stores. Browse the curated home goods and gifts at *The Gathering Place* in Wauseon, find a one-of-a-kind antique treasure at *Vaughn's Vintage Corner* or pick up a handcrafted wooden toy for a special little one. *Oak Openings Pottery* and *Manabigama Kiln Center* in Swanton, offer beautiful, handmade wood-fired pottery for your home and garden.

The culinary scene is a testament to the area's agricultural roots, offering hearty, satisfying fare perfect for a winter's day. For a classic small-town diner experience, visit *Blue Ribbon Diner* in Wauseon. This is where the locals go with a casual atmosphere friendly servers and reasonable prices. Those seeking a more upscale, yet relaxed meal will find it at *The Barn Restaurant* at Sauder Village, which serves exceptional farm-to-table dishes in a stunning timber-frame setting. Located in the heart of Downtown Wauseon, *Sullivan's Restaurant* offers a casual fine dining experience unlike any other.

Fulton County is a haven for outdoor adventure. *Harrison Lake State Park* features a beautiful lake hidden amid 142-acres of wooded splendor. Great hiking is also available at *Goll Woods State Nature Preserve*

When it's time to rest, you will find comfortable and affordable accommodations, ranging from reliable national hotel chains, to distinctive local properties. For an unforgettable experience, book a retreat at the *Sauder Heritage Inn* in Archbold.

The *Cannaley Treehouse Village* is truly a one-of-a-kind experience. It is the only public treehouse village in the country. The village includes two six-person, one four-person and one two-person treehouses, plus three raised platforms for tent and hammock camping in the trees. The treehouses all feature electricity with heating and air conditioning. Come experience it for yourself! For more information go to visitfultoncounty.com. 📍



EXPERIENCE THE *Rich History* OF MIAMI COUNTY



HOME GROWN GREAT.COM [f](#) [d](#) [i](#) [p](#) 937.339.1044



Eldean Covere Bridge Miami County Ohio



peaceful
Goll Woods Nature Preserve



powerful
Bracy Gold Bison Ranch



playful
Sauder Village



flavorful
Fulton County Fair

ful
ton
COUNTY

THE PLACE TO FIND YOUR PACE

visitfultoncounty.com



artful
Oak Openings Pottery



joyful
Tap Culture Coffee



restful
Harrison Lake State Park



ful of history
Fulton County Museum



spiritful
American Winery



BY RENU SAGGAR

feet), making it the longest of its kind in North America. Its two striking towers soar to a height of 220 meters (722 feet), creating an instantly recognizable new landmark on the skyline. 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 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

Rendering of the Gordie Howe International Bridge

Gordie Howe Bridge Rises to the Occasion

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.

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 deep, shared culture between Michigan and Ontario. Naming the bridge in his honor was a masterstroke of diplomacy, grounding a massive infrastructural 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

seamlessly into the continental logistics network.

For decades, an aging Ambassador Bridge, has held a near-monopoly on cross-border traffic between Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario. 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.

As the Gordie Howe International Bridge moves toward its anticipated opening in the next few months, 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 shared goals, mutual prosperity and a forward-looking vision.

When the first vehicles finally 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. 🚧



Grove City Outlets

BY RENU SAGGAR

Experience Holiday Magic

Step into *Kraynak's* in Hermitage during the Christmas holiday season, and you'll find you've been transported directly to the North Pole. *Kraynak's Santa's Christmasland* is a one-of-a-kind attraction that is featured in the store every year from September 10th until December 31st. Over 70 decorated trees are showcased, each with a different theme. In addition, life-like animated figures, festive music and a fresh display every year keep *Kraynak's Santa's Christmasland* a holiday tradition that thousands discover and cherish each year.

Romantic Getaways

Tara – A Country Inn offers all the hospitality of the Old South. This restored Greek revival mansion is filled with gracious amenities, fine art and antiques. All 27 guest rooms are named after characters from "Gone with the Wind" and decorated in period furnishing.

The inn features a fireplace and jacuzzi in every room. They offer year-round specials and packages perfect for a couple's

Shop Till You Drop in Mercer County, PA

Come for the tax free shopping, stay for the adventure

Canadians know Mercer County, PA for Great Tax-Free Shopping at Grove City Premium Outlets, but there are a lot more good times to experience in the county. Their location at the crossroads of I-79 and I-80 in Western Pennsylvania makes getting there easy.

A Shopping Paradise

More than 6 million people visit *Grove City Premium Outlets* each year. One of the largest outlet malls in the United States. The open-air center has over 120 retailers that include Michael Kors, The North Face, Nike Outlet, Coach, American Eagle, Calvin Klein, Adidas and many more. A new Lululemon outlet opened at Grove City in September. Enjoy amenities like WIFI, a charging station and an enclosed food court. Their new loyalty program gives you cash back and perks for shopping.

The tax-free shopping doesn't stop in Grove City. The *Winner* in downtown Sharon, features four floors of savings on the latest fashions and accessories. Featured on the Travel Channel, David Letterman and more, it's a great place to find all the latest styles ranging from sportswear, career wear and cruise wear, to elegant evening wear and a unique selection of bridal wear, and dresses for special occasions.

You'll also find fresh new styles to liven up your style in the Sharon/Hermitage area at Trendy Trousseau, Diane's Boutique, Joden Jewelers and Poppy Boutique.

Wendell August Forge

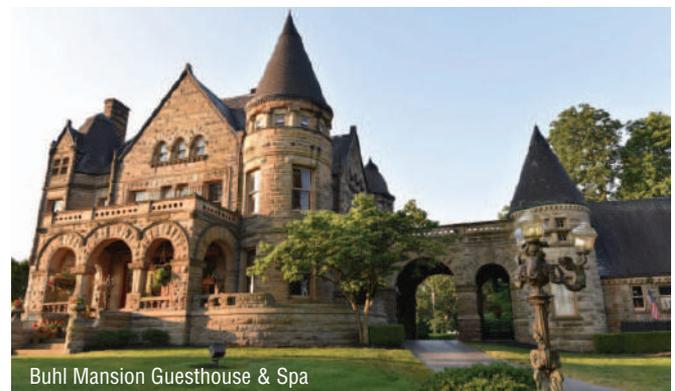
Discover unique personalized gifts made in America that are symbols of the stories, traditions and milestones that bind us all together. Their Flagship Store and History Center is located at *Grove City Premium Outlets* in suite 955. Wendell August Forge features handcrafted, personalized gifts for all of life's special moments. Explore their gift ware which includes Christmas Ornaments, Farmhouse, Baby Collections and more.

getaway. Within the Inn, their signature restaurant, *Stonewalls Tavern* features hand-hewn beams, stonewalls and a cozy, casual atmosphere. It's known for offering some of the area's finest steaks, seafood and homemade desserts.

The *Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa*, is a stunning, historic, castle-like mansion located in Sharon. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places it features 10 lavishly appointed guest rooms, typically including a sitting area, gas fireplace and a two-person Jacuzzi tub. The on-site, full-service Spa offers a wide range of treatments and guests have access to complimentary amenities like a steam room, sauna and monsoon shower.

The Foodie Experience

Mercer County caters to every palate from farm-to-table delights to ethnic cuisine. Savor delectable seasonal dishes at charming local restaurants. Enjoy great selections such as locally raised Angus beef, wild Alaskan seafood, gourmet burgers, delicious BBQ, authentic Mexican food, hand-crafted pizza and much more. 🍴



Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa



BY RENU SAGGAR

donut scene that perfectly complements a relaxing morning by the beach. Whether you're looking for a leisurely brunch with gulf views or a sweet treat to start your day, PCB has plenty of options to satisfy your cravings. Indulge your sweet tooth at one of PCB's charming ice cream shops. From classic cones to creative sundaes, the beachside parlors are the perfect way to cool off after a day in the sun. Many shops offer unique,

Panama City Beach Goes From Nature to Nurture

Panama City Beach, Florida, is a name that conjures images of endless sugar-white sands and turquoise waves dancing along the Gulf of Mexico. Ranking No. 2 in USA Today's list of Best Florida Beaches, PCB offers 27 miles of white-sand beach to choose from. It's a world-renowned spectacle of quartz-crystal sand that stays cool underfoot and water that shifts in hue from seafoam green to deep sapphire. Panama City Beach masterfully blends the tranquil serenity of its natural environment with the pulsating energy of a modern vacation hub. It's a place where you can spend your morning listening to nothing but the waves, your afternoon screaming on a roller coaster and your evening saluting the sunset with your toes in the sand. It's not just a beach, it's a complete coastal adventure.

All Natural Wonders

St. Andrews State Park is a pristine gem anchoring the eastern end of the beach. Explore the more than 1,200 acres of unique coastal terrain teeming with wildlife, hiking trails or embark on a dolphin-watching tour. Charter a fishing boat for a day on the Gulf waters. *Heron Pond Trail* takes hikers through a flatwood pine forest and past a historic turpentine still, while *Gator Lake Trail* offers a scenic view of Gator Lake. Or take the boat shuttle to secluded *Shell Island*, a pristine barrier island across the channel from the park.

The Panama City Beach Conservation Park spans 2,912 acres and offers more than 24 miles of bike paths, trails and boardwalks. The 12 designated trails range from less than a mile to 11 miles long. An additional mile of boardwalks through the park's wetlands allows bird watchers unparalleled opportunities to view migrating and local birds.

Camp Helen State Park is a unique destination that blends history with nature. Once a company retreat in the 1930s, this 185-acre park is now a haven for nature lovers, featuring coastal dunes, freshwater lakes and ancient oak trees draped in Spanish moss.

Beachside Bites & Sweet Treats

Enjoy beachfront spots like *Schooners*, the "Last Local Beach Club," where you can sip a World Famous Rum Runner while watching the daily cannon-fired salute to the sun.

Panama City Beach is also home to a vibrant brunch and

locally inspired flavors like key lime pie or roasted pecan, making it a fun and delicious way to end your day on the beach.

A Roster of Special Events

There's always something going on in Panama City Beach, Florida. It's not just a beautiful destination, it's a lively community that knows how to celebrate. Throughout the year, PCB hosts a variety of events and festivals that cater to every interest, ensuring that there's always something exciting happening. Whether you're passionate about music, food or the arts, PCB offers endless opportunities to experience its unique culture and have some real fun.

In October, kids can play dress-up during the annual Pirates of the High Seas Fest, which features the treasure hunt, pirate costume contests and in true PCB fashion, fireworks displays throughout for several days. Panama City Beach *Oktoberfest* at *Aaron Bessant Park* is quickly becoming one of Florida's largest celebrations, bringing Bavarian tradition to the local coast for a full weekend of music, beer and food.

From its pristine beaches to its vibrant festivals, from its nature preserves to its lively nightlife, Panama City Beach continues to shine as a top destination for adventure, relaxation and everything in between. Come experience the real Florida—the Real. FUN. Beach. Visit PanamaCityBeach.com for more information! 🍹



SUNNY SKIES. WARM WELCOMES.

The real warmth of Panama City Beach comes from the people who return here winter after winter. Neighbors become family. Traditions become stronger. And every day makes your vacation destination feel even more like home.

TO MAKE PCB YOURS, GO TO
VISITPANAMACITYBEACH.COM

REAL BEACH
FUN
PANAMA CITY BEACH



families who want to pause and enjoy each other's company and for anyone craving the rare gift of true quiet. The cool, crisp air makes every outdoor moment refreshing rather than overwhelming, perfect for those extended conversations and shared silences that busy lives rarely allow.

Flavors and Finds for Every Season

The culinary scene is full of flavor and personality, during any season. Enjoy locally caught fresh seafood from the Shell Shack's market, grab a casual bite at *Mango Marley's*, while catching the game, or enjoy the sun and breeze while diving into a fresh pie from *Point Break Pizza*. Start your peaceful mornings at *Caribbean Coffee & Café*, where the legendary cinnamon rolls taste even better when you have time to truly enjoy them alongside locals who've made this their daily ritual.

Mexico Beach, Florida ~ The Unforgettable Coast

Not all beaches are created equal and Mexico Beach, Florida, is living proof. Tucked away in Northwest Florida, just 45 minutes east of Panama City Beach, this quiet, sun-soaked community has remained a beloved secret for generations of travelers. With five miles of untouched, sugar-white sand, Mexico Beach offers more than just a vacation, it offers a timeless experience. Visit once and you'll understand why this charming coastal town leaves a lasting impression on every heart.

A True Escape From the Everyday

Here, time has a way of slowing down, giving you space to breathe, unwind, and reconnect with what matters most. Mexico Beach is refreshingly free of towering high-rises and traffic lights, because there aren't any. Since its founding in 1946, our coastal town has preserved its small-town soul, offering a peaceful retreat from the pace of modern life.

As the summer crowds fade and the cooler months arrive, Mexico Beach transforms into an even more intimate sanctuary. This is when their community truly shines, revealing its authentic character to those who seek genuine connection with nature and themselves.

Fall's Tranquility & Nature's Splendor

Fall ushers in a more peaceful and tranquil vibe to Mexico Beach. With summer visitors returning home, the beach

becomes your private stage for nature's daily masterpiece: sunsets that paint the Gulf in brilliant oranges, deep purples and gold that shimmer on the water's surface long after the sun disappears.

Fall brings comfortable temperatures perfect for long walks on the shore. It's the season for unhurried morning coffee on your balcony, afternoon fishing excursions where you might be the only boat on the horizon and evening beach conversations that flow as freely as the tide.

Natural beauty reaches its peak during these months, when the light takes on that golden quality photographers dream of. Whether you're capturing sunset photos with your family or simply savoring quiet moments together, fall offers countless opportunities to create those deeper memories that last long after you've returned home.

Winter's Peace & Quiet Paradise

"Winter" at the beach is an ideal time for reflection and relaxation. While temperatures may dip a little, the mild Gulf Coast climate keeps the weather comfortable enough to enjoy the beach and other outdoor activities. This season is considered the 'off-season' in Mexico Beach, which means you'll have the beach practically to yourself, a great time to refresh without distractions.

This is the season for couples seeking romantic walks along empty shores, for

Take a leisurely stroll along a sidewalk-lined main street, where charming boutiques and gift shops invite you to explore. Want to be pampered during your retreat, *White Sands Salon & Boutique* can give you a new look and feel during your beach stay. Looking for unique mementos or two? *Beach Planet* has you covered with custom T-shirts and personalized keepsakes. And for the outdoor enthusiast, *Mexico Beach Marina & Outfitters* is your go-to stop for gear, whether you're hitting the shore or heading out on the water.

Your Invitation to Reconnect

Ready to trade your routine for the slower rhythm of waves and salt-kissed air? Fall and winter in Mexico Beach, FL offer something increasingly rare: genuine peace, space to breathe and the opportunity to reconnect with what truly matters. Whether it's sharing breathtaking fall sunsets, enjoying quiet family time on uncrowded beaches or simply rediscovering the joy of having nowhere urgent to be, the cooler months provide the perfect backdrop for creating memories that will warm you long after you've returned home.

Discover Mexico Beach, Florida, the Unforgettable Coast. The crowds are gone. The sunsets are spectacular. The connections you make will be unforgettable. 🌊

Start planning your vacation today at www.MexicoBeach.com.



— PACE —

TIME TO SET YOUR OWN

NO DEADLINES. NO SCHEDULES. JUST THE RHYTHM OF THE WAVES.

Time to Discover Mexico Beach, Florida.

Where vacations move at a slower pace. Where you can take in the salty air and golden sunsets. By letting the waves set your agenda, you will be reminded that the best moments happen when you simply let go.

MexicoBeach

FLORIDA

The Unforgettable Coast®

Discover more at MexicoBeach.com

When you are here, there is no where to be - except exactly where you are.



BY RENU SAGGAR

Final. And when winter turns to spring, MetLife Stadium draws some of the highest-profile musical acts—including Zach Bryan, System of a Down, Beyoncé, Shakira and Oasis—with a seating capacity of over 80,000, making it the largest NFL stadium in the country.

Also located in the *Meadowlands Sports Complex* is the FanDuel Sportsbook located at *Meadowlands Racetrack*. The 5,320 square foot venue is the go-to sports betting destination in the Northeast. FanDuel boasts 57 television displays,

Fall & Winter Adventures in New Jersey's Meadowlands

New Jersey's Meadowlands Region is one of the most exciting destinations for experience-driven travel in the Northeast—especially during the Fall and Winter seasons. Whether you're savoring world-class cuisine at some of the state's finest restaurants or tailgating outside *MetLife Stadium* before catching a game, the Meadowlands delivers thrills at every turn. And that's just the beginning!

With over 13,500 hotel rooms just 15 minutes from *Newark Liberty International Airport*, easy access by public transit, eight miles from New York City and accessible by the region's major highways – every visitor has an opportunity to experience the best that New Jersey has to offer in the Meadowlands.

American Dream in East Rutherford has over three million square feet of attractions, entertainment and restaurants. Escape the cold at *DreamWorks Water Park*, the world's largest indoor water park or catch a ride on the *Dream Wheel* offering sweeping views of New York City's skyline, take a deep dive at *SEA LIFE® Aquarium*, build and learn at *LEGOLAND® Discovery Center*, compete at *Activate Games* and *Blast 7D*, skate on an NHL regulation-sized ice rink, slide down the slopes at North America's only indoor ski area at *Big SNOW*, challenge others in the *Great Big Game Show* or immerse yourself at *The New Jersey Hall of Fame* – and don't miss out on the world-class shopping in its luxury wing *The Avenue*. Just be sure to stay a few nights! You can't possibly experience all *American Dream* has to offer with just a one-day visit.

Don't forget to catch a show at the *Bergen Performing Arts Center*. Whether it's the comedy of Jay Leno, a live STYX performance or the greatest tribute bands to some of the biggest names in rock music, there's something for everybody!

MetLife Stadium is home to two NFL Football Teams: *The New York Jets* and *The New York Giants*. The world-class venue has played host to the *Super Bowl*, the first two-night *WWE SummerSlam*, *FIFA Club World Cup™* and will be host to eight matches during the *FIFA World Cup 2026™* including the Tournament

seating for over 200 people and 55 betting kiosks. Wager on all major U.S. sports including professional football, hockey, soccer, basketball, golf, boxing, racing, international sports and more! For the outdoor enthusiasts who want to brave the cold, *Mountain Creek Resort* in Vernon, boasts 167 acres of terrain consisting of 46 trails serviced by eight lifts for skiing, snowboarding and tubing. With night skiing also available, *Mountain Creek's* expansive lodge with several dining options offers the perfect après ski experiences plus slopeside overnight accommodations for an extended trip.

Northern New Jersey has even more to offer: the western hemisphere's largest Planetarium at the *Liberty Science Center* in Jersey City – where children learn about the wonders of science through hands on learning experiences. For the best scenic and iconic views of Manhattan, the *Statue of Liberty* and *Ellis Island*, book a boat tour or dinner cruise on the Hudson River – an unforgettable experience sure to make memories that will last a lifetime.

If you're more interested in the need for speed, try *RPM Raceway* – also in Jersey City. The indoor electric go-kart track is one of the world's largest at 2,200 feet with a 72 second lap time. The state-of-the-art facility can accommodate 16 adult and 12 junior racers, with private meeting and party spaces, arcade games, virtual reality gaming, billiard tables and a full bar and restaurant.

And for the ultimate dining experience, visit *Medieval Times* in Lyndhurst. Travel back in time to an 11th Century Knight Tournament of jousting and sword fighting as you enjoy a four-course meal that you eat with your hands! The Meadowlands also offers a wide variety of ethnic foods for everyone to enjoy – and there's no shortage of celebrity sightings with some of the biggest names in sports and TV dining at *Elia* in East Rutherford. 🍷

The Meadowlands has all this and more. Visit www.MLCVB.com to plan your next adventure in Northern New Jersey.

Meadowlands | *Live!*
Convention and Visitors Bureau

and Kicking 

NEW JERSEY'S FUN CAPITAL: THE MEADOWLANDS!!

HOST OF THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™ FINAL



Contact line: 877-MLCVBUS

Meadowlands | *Live!*
Convention and Visitors Bureau

meadowlandslive.com


New Jersey
visitnj.org

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



BY RENU SAGGAR

unique shops and eateries surround a picturesque lake, often glistening with a thin layer of ice. In December, the village transforms into a Christmas fantasy with over one million lights, a festive train ride and nightly tree lighting. The scent of wood smoke and mulled cider fills the air, making it a quintessential holiday destination.

A visit to South Jersey wouldn't be complete without a stroll through *Haddonfield*, a picturesque town often likened to the idealized "Main Street USA." Kings Highway, lined with locally owned boutiques and excellent restaurants, is set amid charming colonial-era architecture. Haddonfield is also famous as the childhood home of director Steven Spielberg and features a monument to the *Hadrosaurus*, the first dinosaur

Take a Seasonal Sojourn in South Jersey

Fall and winter are the perfect seasons to discover South Jersey's cozy downtowns, festive winter activities, exceptional shopping and culinary delights that warm you from the inside out. Situated just across the river from Philadelphia, South Jersey encompasses Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties, each offering a unique array of special events, shopping, accommodations, restaurants, wineries, outdoor adventures and plenty more!

Begin your exploration at the *Camden Waterfront*, where the skyline meets the water. The stunning views of the Delaware River make for a scenic start to any day. This family-friendly destination is packed with a variety of restaurants, shops and entertainment venues. The *Freedom Mortgage Pavilion*, a highlight of the area, hosts major Live Nation concerts and events, offering something for everyone year-round.

History enthusiasts should not miss the *Battleship New Jersey*, which is permanently moored at the Camden Waterfront. At nearly 900 feet long and towering 11 stories high, this floating museum is America's most decorated battleship. Visitors can explore its decks through guided tours, view historical exhibits and participate in special events that bring the ship's storied past to life.

For a more interactive experience, head to the nearby *Adventure Aquarium*, which promises a delightful time for families. Home to over 15,000 aquatic species, including the largest collection of sharks on the East Coast, the aquarium's exhibits are sure to captivate. Don't miss the *Stingray Beach Club*, where visitors can touch and hand-feed an array of stingrays, adding a hands-on element to the adventure.

Smithville is a living-history village that feels like stepping into a Currier & Ives print. The colonial-style buildings housing

discovered in the United States.

Dinosaur buffs should head for the *Jean & Ric Edelman Fossil Park and Museum* in Mantua Township. The museum overlooks a real quarry where researchers have unearthed 66-million-year-old marine fossils and even a full-blown tyrannosaur.

Nature lovers can explore the *Pinelands National Reserve*, a vast 1.1 million-acre coastal plain ecosystem unique to South Jersey. Discover the region's hidden gems, such as ghost towns, ruins of historic industries and diverse wildlife. Keep an eye out for the legendary Jersey Devil, said to roam the Pine Barrens for over 250 years.

Shopping here is an antidote to the big-box store. It's about the thrill of the find. Browse the eclectic mix of antique stores, art galleries and specialty boutiques. In Smithville, explore the *Village Greene* for everything from old-fashioned candy and holiday ornaments, to handmade crafts. In Haddonfield, discover high-end fashion, unique home goods and local art.

Wine enthusiasts will find South Jersey's award-winning wineries and vineyards particularly inviting during the fall season. The Outer Coastal Plain AVA is renowned for its exclusive *Coeur d'Est* red wine blend. Enjoy a relaxing day of wine tasting, live music and farm-to-table dining amidst the beautiful autumn scenery.

Lastly, experience a true piece of Americana at the *Cowtown Rodeo* in Pilesgrove, the oldest weekly rodeo in the country. Since 1929, the rodeo has entertained visitors with thrilling events like bull riding and steer wrestling in a 4,000-seat arena. The tradition continues strong, with many of the broncos today being descendants of those from the early 1970s. 🐾

For more information about planning your fall or winter visit to South Jersey, explore visitsouthjersey.com.



Visit   
SOUTH JERSEY

VisitSouthJersey.com

GET AWAY CLOSE TO HOME

Wine and dine in South Jersey with 60+ vineyards, breweries, and distilleries surrounded by farm fresh cuisine, vibrant downtowns, history, arts and culture, outdoor adventures, and family fun!



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



**SOUTH JERSEY
BY THE ROUTE**
VisitSouthJersey.com/ByTheRoute





Water's Soul Hudson River Waterfront Walkway

BY RENU SAGGAR

Battery Park from Liberty State Park in Jersey City.

Enjoy dozens of waterfront restaurants along the Hudson River, including staples like *Son Cubano* in West New York, *Blue Eyes Restaurant* in Hoboken, *Battello* in Jersey City, and the upscale *Chart House*, located on its own Upper West Side-view pier in Weehawken. Additional upscale local fan favorites, perfect for anniversaries, birthdays or a special night out, include *Liberty House* in Liberty State Park and *Hudson House* in Jersey City.

NYC & N. Jersey Attractions

Speaking of transportation, getting over to Manhattan is surprisingly simple. You can hop aboard the scenic *NY Waterway* ferry from Port Imperial and Lincoln Harbor in Weehawken, uptown or downtown Hoboken and Harborside, Paulus Hook, Liberty Harbor and Port Liberty in Jersey City. This traffic-free transport option will have you over to Midtown or Lower Manhattan within minutes. And, given the ferry ride is breathtakingly scenic, with views of the Hudson County and New York City waterfronts, this experience is more than transportation!

Outdoor Adventures

With river access and numerous parks, Hudson County is filled with adventure opportunities. Visit Hoboken to kayak along the Hudson River from the Hoboken Cove Community Boat House or try your hand at sailing, stand up paddle boarding and jet skiing on the Hudson from Hoboken's Pier 13. Over at the scenic Liberty State Park, you can get your blood pumping with everything from boating and canoeing to biking and running races. And another gem, the *Hackensack Riverkeeper* Eco-Cruise, takes you through the Meadowland marshes for education, history and fun aboard a 30-foot pontoon boat. 🚤

For more Hudson County travel ideas, hear expert tourism tips from the locals in their *Visit Hudson.TV* videos.

Only in Hudson County, New Jersey

In a 62-square-mile stretch of Northern New Jersey, you'll find everything from internationally recognized food to the best New York City views—all without those big city crowds.

FIFA World Cup 2026

The FIFA World Cup 26™ tournament spans across Canada, Mexico and USA with 104 games featuring 48 teams across 16 host cities. New York New Jersey Stadium will host a total of eight World Club matches – Five in the Group Stage, one in the Round of 32, one in the round of 16 and the Final! The 2026 World Club kicks off on Thursday, June 11, 2026. It's a huge honor for the FIFA World Cup Trophy to be raised in the final match on July 19th in New Jersey!

Liberty State Park

Liberty State Park in Jersey City, is the Home of A 39-day FIFA Fan Festival™.

The *FIFA Fan Festival™* is the ultimate football party! It's the perfect place to catch all the action of the Men's FIFA World Cup™, surrounded by fans from around the world in a one-of-a-kind World Cup atmosphere.

Right here in Liberty State Park in Jersey City, fans will experience an unforgettable mix of live match broadcasts, music, culture, food and entertainment — all with



the breathtaking Manhattan skyline as the backdrop.

From world-famous icons to hidden local gems, Hudson County is ready to roll out the welcome mat. They are proud to share their neighborhoods, their culture and their unshakable love for the game with the world. This is more than just a festival — it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience you don't want to miss!

Eleven U.S. destinations will host the games, including New Jersey. Other U.S. host cities include Seattle, San Francisco, LA, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Kansas City, Boston, Philadelphia and Miami.

World's Best Views of NYC

And the hidden gems don't stop there. The *Hudson River Waterfront Walkway* winds through nearly 20 scenic miles of New York City views, some of the best walkway spots can be found in Hudson County. Enjoy Midtown Manhattan skyscrapers from Hoboken's Pier A Park, or see the best of Lower Manhattan's

Visit Hudson County

Experience the **New** New Jersey

NORTH BERGEN **WEST NEW YORK**
UNION CITY **BAYONNE**
EAST NEWARK **HOBOKEN** **SECAUCUS**
JERSEY CITY **KEARNY** **GUTTENBERG**
WEEHAWKEN **HARRISON**



FAMILY FRIENDLY



GROUP FRIENDLY



NEARBY TRANSIT



Visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Without the Crowds

Travelers can catch a Statue Cruises Ferry from Jersey City's Liberty State Park—a scenic gem within itself.

Enjoy the Best NYC Views in the World

The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway winds through nearly 20 scenic miles of New York City views.

Relax in Our Restaurants

Enjoy dozens of waterfront restaurants along the Hudson River, from North Bergen to West New York, to Weehawken, Hoboken, and Jersey City.

Easily Access New York City and North Jersey Attractions

International visitors can fly into Newark Liberty Airport for the closest access to Hudson County. You can hop aboard the scenic NY Waterway ferry from Weehawken, Hoboken and Jersey City.

Cape Liberty New Jersey Cruise Port to the Caribbean

Cape Liberty Cruise Port, Bayonne is located right here in Hudson County. Before or after your cruise from New Jersey, spend a few days in Hudson County dining at the city's legendary restaurants and exploring our iconic landmarks.

For more Hudson County travel ideas, go to visithudson.org



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

[f](https://www.facebook.com/visithudsonNJ) [i](https://www.instagram.com/visithudsonNJ) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@visithudsonNJ) @visithudsonNJ



Hudson County®
New Jersey

visithudson.org



The Biosphere indoor/outdoor pool complex

BY RENU SAGGAR

Best Expensive Restaurant, expansive indoor pools and outdoor snow pools, plus access to skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing at neighboring *Mountain Creek*. To learn more about Crystal Springs Resort's winter offerings, visit CSResort.com.

About Crystal Springs Resort

The Northeast's largest four season golf, spa and culinary resort, Crystal Springs is located in the Kittatinny Mountains in Northern New Jersey, 43 miles from New York City. The two hotel resort (Grand Cascades Lodge and Minerals Hotel) is known for its culinary program, hosting the internationally recognized *New Jersey Wine & Food Festival* and boasting 10 seasonally inspired dining venues that feature over 130

A Holiday Celebration in the Sussex Skylands

Set amidst mountain splendor with scenic vistas spanning three states, Crystal Springs Resort has staked its claim as the New York Metro area's leading winter vacation destination. Just a one-hour drive from Manhattan, the luxurious *Grand Cascades Lodge* and recreation-rich *Minerals Hotel* provide cold weather devotees stylish accommodations, first-rate amenities and abundant activities.

Guests staying at both hotels have embraced the resort's winter offerings highlighted by an expansive eco-friendly skating rink located at Grand Cascades Lodge. Adjacent to the rink, guests can partake in a competitive round of curling, a friendly toss exchange with axe throwing, as well as a magical *Cozy Corner* highlighted by farm animal visits. At neighboring Minerals Hotel, guests enjoy the popular *Frosty's Cantina*. On a chilled night, sipping a signature cocktail or warm winter beverage while roasting marshmallows by toasty fire pits has proven a popular evening activity.

An array of holiday activities are available post-Thanksgiving including Metal Stamped Ornaments, Letters to Santa, The 12 Goats of Christmas, Reindeer Games, Ginger Bread Making, Holiday Wreath Making and more.

A highlight of the holiday season will be the resort's *Holiday Spectacular* held at *The Canyon* in Minerals Hotel on Saturday, December 6, 2025. This event is a perfect opportunity to gather with friends and family to get in the holiday spirit with an array of talented acts featuring singing sensation *Backtrack Vocals*, *Yut Chia*, the incredible electric violinist and more. The day show features food and drink are available for purchase, while the evening event will include a delicious buffet of your favorites plus open bar featuring beer, wine and festive holiday beverages.

Crystal Springs Resort also captivates its guests with two pampering *Spas of America*-awarded spas offering seasonally inspired services, educational tasting programs at the Wine Spectator Grand Award-winning *Wine Cellar*, outdoor dining in the *Champagne Chalets* 4-star Restaurant *Latour* voted NJ's

locally sourced menu items, highlighted by 4-star Restaurant *Latour* and its world famous Wine Spectator Grand Award-winning wine cellar. Other amenities include two full-service luxury day spas, state-of-the-art Minerals Sports Club, multiple indoor and outdoor pools, including the tropical *Biosphere Pool Complex* with lush foliage and freeform nature pools and six championship caliber golf courses including New Jersey's #1 public course, *Ballyowen* (Golf Week, Golf Advisor, New Jersey Monthly). In addition to serving thousands of hotel guests, Crystal Springs Resort annually hosts hundreds of weddings, special events and corporate meetings.

Get ready to experience the magic of the holidays at the *Skylands Stadium Christmas Light Show & Village*, opening November 24. This enchanting event brings to life over two million dazzling lights, festive displays and family-friendly attractions. Drive through a mile-long spectacle of vibrant holiday scenes and twinkling lights, then step into the *Christmas Village*, where holiday cheer awaits at every corner. Take photos with Santa, shop at a festive market filled with unique vendors and admire holiday displays that add to the winter wonderland. Enjoy hot cocoa, s'mores, ice cream and other delicious treats. With unforgettable memories waiting to be made, Skylands Stadium's Christmas Light Show & Village is a must-visit for all ages this holiday season! Visit them at <https://skylandsstadium.com/lightshow/>.

The *German Christmas Market of NJ* will be held at Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ December 5th and 6th from 10:00 am - 8:00 pm. Enjoy all the festive lights, plus Ice Sculptures, Pony Rides, a Petting Zoo Santa & Mrs. Claus, live entertainment, craft vendors and more. Check out the amazing Pocono Mountain Garden Railway Society train display in the Greenhouse, surrounded by Christmas trees decorated with beautiful handmade ornaments. Visit them at <https://www.germanchristmasmarketnj.org/>. Visit sussexskylands.com for more information. 📍



FIND YOUR Adventure



Sussex New Jersey's Great Northwest! **SKYLANDS**



visitnj.org

Sussex Skylands received funding through a grant from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism.

For more information visit sussexskylands.com
120 Hampton House Rd. Rt. 206
Newton, New Jersey 07860
973-579-1811



Request Your Free Visitor's Guide

VISIT FOR Golf, Restaurants, Outdoor Adventures, Spas, Resorts and Much More!

EXPLORE

Coldwater Country

- ✓ 100 Freshwater Lakes
- ✓ Historic Steam Engine
- ✓ Seasonal Festivals
- ✓ Magic Capital of the World
- ✓ Live Theatre
- ✓ Antique Capital of Michigan
- ✓ Drive-In Theatre



COLDWATERCOUNTRY
...at the pulse of Michigan



THE BALDWIN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
110
PHILADELPHIA, PA.



BY RENU SAGGAR

journey with Santa and a touch of vintage Christmas magic.

Seasonal Festivals

When it comes to festive fun, Coldwater Country knows how to celebrate! In October, don't miss the *Apple Fest & Craft Show*. With 200+ vendors, cider donuts, food trucks and a pie-eating contest that's the stuff of legends, it's fall at its finest.

Come January, Coldwater's *Winter Fest* transforms the town into a snowy wonderland. From sled dog demos to cardboard sled races, live wood carving and horse-drawn carriage rides, there's no shortage of winter whimsy.

And for a frosty adventure, bundle up for *Quincy's Chain of Lakes Tip Up Festival*—complete with games, ice-fishing contests, family fun and for the brave (or maybe a little crazy) Polar Bear splash!

Fall & Winter Fun in Michigan's Coldwater Country

Crisp air, golden leaves and snowy landscapes—fall and winter are pure magic in *Michigan's Coldwater Country*. Nestled in south-central Michigan near the Indiana border, this scenic region—featuring Coldwater, Bronson, Quincy, Union City, Colon, Athens and Allen—is your go-to spot for vibrant colors, cozy charm and unforgettable outdoor adventures.

Outside Adventures

With more than 100 sparkling freshwater lakes, Coldwater Country is a playground for outdoor lovers year-round. Paddle the peaceful *Union City Heritage Water Trail* or take a boat ride along the North and South *Chains of Lakes* in Coldwater, soaking up the vibrant fall foliage—or the peaceful silence of a frosty morning.

Fishing more your speed? Reel in bass, perch, bluegill and walleye before warming up at a local café or setting off on your next adventure.

On land, cycle through postcard-perfect countryside along 15- and 20-mile routes glowing in autumn colors. Golfers can hit the greens up in the fall at over two dozen courses—including the unique 9-hole *Iyopawa Island Golf Course*, where lake views unique layout create an unforgettable round.

Family Friendly Fun

Bring the whole crew! At *Adventure Zone*, kids (and kids at heart) can race go-karts, play mini golf, battle in laser tag and dive into virtual reality games.

For something wildly unique, head to *Critchlow's Alligator Sanctuary* in Athens. Feed gators, take a guided tour and get up close with these ancient reptiles.

Then hop aboard the *Little River Railroad's* historic steam engine. Ride the *Pumpkin Train* for dazzling autumn views or climb aboard the *Holiday Express* in December for a joyful

Arts & Entertainment

Get inspired by Coldwater's thriving art scene! Stroll through downtown to find colorful murals, student art and outdoor sculptures—or warm up inside the *Tibbits Opera House* art gallery.

Speaking of Tibbits, this historic gem offers live performances all year—from musicals and concerts to professional theatre and comedy shows.

Want more nostalgia? Pack some blankets and head to the *Capri Drive-In* for a double feature under the stars. With twin screens and room for 1,000 cars, it's a classic movie night you won't forget.

For a little enchantment, visit *Colon*—the Magic Capital of the World. Discover spellbinding performances, quirky shops and magical experiences that make this small town truly extraordinary.

Antiques & Eats

Treasure hunters, rejoice! *Allen*, Michigan's Antique Capital, is packed with hidden gems across five giant antique malls, including the 25,000-square-foot *Allen Antique Barn*.

While you're exploring, visit Amish shops across Branch County for handcrafted furniture, delicious baked goods, artisan jewelry and seasonal gifts—all with a warm welcome and a touch of tradition.

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

Ready for festive fun and cozy winter vibes? Head to *ColdwaterCountry.com* to plan your adventure, or download the Coldwater Country app for insider tips, event info and everything you need for the perfect fall and winter escape! 🐻

You'll Find a Lot to Love About Lansing

Lansing, Michigan is a welcoming destination for Canadians with its dynamic mix of diverse cuisine, top attractions, vibrant arts scene and a robust calendar of events. Just over an hour from the Windsor border, Lansing delivers a big-city experience without the big-city hassle, making it an ideal autumn or winter getaway!

A centerpiece for any visitor is the *Michigan State Capitol Building*, famed for its 81-meter-high dome and soaring rotunda. Free guided tours are available weekdays and the first Saturday of the month.

For a hands-on experience, *Impression 5 Science Center* (named 2025 Best Children's Museum in the US) encourages kids and adults alike to engage all five senses with inventive, interactive exhibits. Animal lovers can't miss the *Potter Park Zoo*, where cool weather brings out snow leopards and red pandas. Outdoor enthusiasts will love the *Lansing River Trail*, which winds for over 21 kilometers through scenic parks and connects you to the city's best sights.

The sleek *Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum* on the Michigan State University campus, hosts world-class exhibitions in a stunning, modern building designed by Zaha Hadid. Theatre fans



Shopping in Lansing's Old Town. Credit: Tom Gennara.

have nearly endless options from touring Broadway productions and top-notch musical performances at the *Wharton Center for Performing Arts*. Experience touring Broadway shows this year like Neil Diamond's *A Beautiful Noise*, *The Wiz*, plus Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

During fall, Lansing is awash with vibrant foliage. Seasonal markets like *Uncle John's Cider Mill* flourish and local farms offering freshly picked apples,

corn mazes, crisp cider and hayrides. Don't miss the kickoff to the holiday season with Lansing's *Silver Bells in the City* in late November. This event draws thousands to downtown Lansing with a stunning electric light parade, Michigan's official Christmas tree-lighting, fireworks, drone show and live music, channeling a festive spirit that rivals any Canadian holiday market.

Lansing's restaurant scene reflects its multicultural character. For an upscale meal, visit *Toscana*, a modern Italian steakhouse in the Red Cedar development. Another local favorite is *Soup Spoon Café*, known for its soups and fresh salads, *Lansing Shuffle*, Lansing's riverside food hall offers international delights like Kin Thai, Beirut Kitchen, Yeti Kitchen and Takitos AF. Visit Lansing.org for more information. 🍷

Scan this QR Code and start planning your weekend getaway.

WEEKEND GETAWAY? LANSING'S MY CHOICE

Plan a road trip to Lansing, Michigan and discover greater options like exciting attractions, lively festivals, diverse dining and charming communities. Choose Lansing for your next getaway and plan on something Greater.

Choose 
LANSING
Plan On Something **Greater**

 Lansing.org

Winter in Presque Isle Park



BY RENU SAGGAR

February adds even more ways to embrace the season. The *Heikki Lunta Festival*, February 6–8, celebrates Finnish heritage with traditions like an ice fishing tournament and lantern-lit snowshoeing through historic mine ruins, while the *Meijer Winter State Games*, also February 6–8, fill Marquette with the energy of competitions from figure skating and curling to luge and downhill skiing. From February 12–16, the UP200 takes center

Fall & Winter are Wonderful in Marquette

Tucked along the shores of Lake Superior in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, Marquette County blends rugged natural beauty with a welcoming small-town spirit. Rushing waterfalls, lush forests and scenic overlooks make it a year-round destination, with fall and winter bringing their own distinct charm. Visitors can hit the trails, chase iconic scenery, discover local flavors and take part in signature community events that celebrate the time of year.

As autumn settles across the region, Marquette County comes alive with crisp air, colorful foliage and a welcoming calendar of community gatherings. From seasonal races and brewery celebrations to arts experiences and family-friendly festivals, fall provides the perfect backdrop for exploring local culture before the first snowfall arrives. These traditions set the stage for the months ahead, when the community embraces winter with just as much energy and spirit.

When winter arrives, Marquette County shifts into one of the snowiest destinations east of the Rockies. The frozen shoreline of Lake Superior creates dramatic ice formations while snow-covered forests invite exploration by ski, snowshoe or fat-tire bike.

Holiday magic returns to downtown Marquette November 20–December 27, with an encore on New Year’s Eve, as the Holiday Lasers light up the Ore Dock. This sensory-friendly light show casts dazzling displays on the historic

Lower Harbor Ore Dock each Thursday through Saturday evening. Designed in partnership with Fresh Coast Light Lab, the event is accessible and welcoming to all including families, veterans and individuals with sensory sensitivities.

For winter sports enthusiasts, January 23–24, 2026 brings the *Noquemanon Ski Marathon*. Now in its 28th year, the “Noque” attracts both elite athletes and recreational skiers to a historic point-to-point course from the Al Quaal Recreation Area in Ishpeming to the Superior Dome in Marquette. It remains one of the premier cross-country ski events in the U.S.

stage as mushers from across the United States and Canada embark on a 220-mile sled dog race from Marquette to Grand Marais and back, cheered on by enthusiastic crowds that line the snowy route.

From the energy of fall festivals and races to the quiet beauty of snow-covered trails, Marquette County offers a steady rhythm of adventure and celebration. Whether enjoying the fall colors, catching a laser show downtown or skiing into the *Superior Dome*, visitors will find plenty of reasons to experience this corner of Michigan in the months ahead. TravelMarquette.com for more information. 📍



Grand Haven's Top 5 Holiday Events

Bundle up for magical winter fun in the Grand Haven Area! Enjoy cozy downtown shopping, cross-country ski pristine trails, try snowshoeing, watch stunning lighthouse sunsets and warm up at one of the many choices for area lodging. From holiday parades, to New Year's fireworks, there are unforgettable winter memories for every adventurer.

Light Night in Downtown Grand Haven, Friday, Nov. 21 5-8pm

Grand Haven's cherished holiday tradition that kicks off the festive season! Holiday lights illuminate the streets, as you enjoy special offers from local businesses, music, themed treats and abundant holiday shopping. Grand Haven's year-round downtown offers heated walkways and streets to make your shopping experience safe and enjoyable.

Spring Lake Sparkle, Saturday, Nov. 29 – Thursday, Jan. 1

Downtown Spring Lake's magical transformation features over 120,000 multi-colored lights illuminating trees along Savidge Street! Visit Santa's house, cozy up by the fireplace at Epicurean Village and enjoy the community Christmas tree. This drive-through holiday adventure will fill your heart with cheer and put a sparkle in your eye!

Jingle Bell Parade Saturday, Dec. 6th, 6pm

Ring in the holidays with Grand Haven's beloved Jingle Bell



Cardboard Sled Race at Winterfest

Parade! This family-friendly event features lighted floats, music and festive costumes winding through downtown. The magical evening concludes with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Central Park. Come jingle all the way to holiday joy with them!

New Year's Eve Ball Drop, Wednesday, Dec. 31 – Thursday, Jan. 1, 9pm – 1am

Ring in the New Year at downtown Grand Haven's midnight ball drop celebration! Dance to live music by Dank Hill playing '90s and 2000s hits at Harbor and Washington then watch the spectacular lighted ball drop followed by stunning fireworks!

Winterfest — Celebrating 50 years Jan. 22-25, 2026

Experience the world-famous cardboard sled races, snow volleyball, beer tastings, bonfire bash and euchre tournaments. From the Glowbowl to the Snow Angel contest, there's winter fun for all ages. Come create awesome wintertime memories!

Ready to experience all the winter magic the Grand Haven Area has to offer? Contact the Grand Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau for personalized vacation planning information, event schedules, lodging recommendations and insider tips to make your visit unforgettable. Let them help you create the perfect winter escape! Go to VisitGrandHaven.com.

IT'S ONLY
NATURAL

Like the snowflakes that fall from our skies, winter always brings something fresh to the Grand Haven Area. Here you'll find ice-framed lighthouses, seasonal events, and our signature warm hospitality, all in a natural setting that beckons exploration.

VisitGrandHaven.com
[#VisitGrandHavenArea](https://twitter.com/VisitGrandHavenArea)

@Ed Post

In the Grand Haven Area, it's all here, and it's only natural. VisitGrandHaven.com





Crossroads Village

Warm Up or Cool Down in Flint & Genesee

From spooky Season to holiday season, there's plenty of fun in Flint & Genesee. When the cool weather hits, locals know that the days of getting lost in a corn maze, being haunted at a local cemetery and trick-or-treating in the local historic village are upon us — followed closely by twinkling lights and cold nights with cocoa, chestnuts roasting over an open fire, and holiday cheer. The seasons don't stop anyone from exploring Flint & Genesee, Michigan and the fall and winter are a perfect time to do so.

In the fall, apple orchards throughout Genesee County ramp up for their busy season. The area is home to over half a dozen locally owned orchards and each one has its own unique spin on the classic apple cider and donuts. At *Spicer Orchard* in Fenton, you can join some friends for a glass of wine or hard cider at *Spicer's Winery Tasting Room* or you can let the kids play in its play land, visit the farm animals and take a train ride through the orchard. *Almar Orchard* in Flushing is a certified organic orchard and is the maker of *JK Scrumpy Hard Cider*, which is distributed throughout the United States. *Montrose Orchards* in Montrose is known for its Pumpkin Fantasy, hayrides and pumpkin patch and has unique events



Pumpkin Fantasy

throughout the year, like food truck rallies and farm-to-table dinners.

Fall in Flint & Genesee is also filled with frightening haunts and unique festivals that are fun for the whole family. Harvest festivals are hosted in Flushing, Clio and at the historic Applewood Estate in the Flint Cultural Center. The Historic *Glenwood Cemetery* in Flint hosts events like its *Gothic Garden Party* and the *Flint City Bike Tours* puts on a *Haunted Flint Tour*. At *Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad*, the annual *Halloween Ghosts & Goodies* is a fun trick-or-treating event for the whole family, featuring a spooky train ride on a classic steam engine.

Outside of spooky events, Flint & Genesee is a great place to see the fall leaves change. With over 11,000 acres of county parks — the largest county parks system in the state of Michigan — there are many

BY RENU SAGGAR

places to hike, bike, and even kayak to see the beauty of autumn. *For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum* in Burton has miles of trails to explore, as well as a barrier-free treehouse to view the colors from above.

Once the weather turns from cool to cold, you know the holiday season is just around the corner! In Flint & Genesee, winter is filled with sparkling lights and cold nights filled with sweet treats and even sweeter carols. In cities and towns throughout Genesee County, smaller festivals make a huge impact, like Flushing's *Candlewalk*, which lights up the Hallmark Movie-esque town with thousands of softly glowing lights, along with holiday music, s'mores, refreshments and horse-drawn wagon rides.

Another must-see holiday wonder is the lighted trail through *Creasey Bicentennial Park* in Grand Blanc. The beautifully lit trail lines the park with thousands of lights, as the park hosts *Holiday Walking Nights* for groups to experience the beauty. Each night hosts a different theme, including character night, trail of treats and a scavenger hunt.

Finally, the most honored holiday tradition in Flint & Genesee is *Christmas at Crossroads Village*. The historic turn-of-the-last-century village lights up each Christmas season and invites the public to explore what Christmas was like in the early 1900s. Along with cocoa, roasted chestnuts and holiday tales, the *Huckleberry Railroad* with historic steam engines decked out in lights is ready to take you on a lighted train ride through the countryside. This yearly event is a standout for young and old alike!

Beyond the holiday events, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the winter weather in Flint & Genesee. Several parks have cross-country ski trails and there are plenty of sled hills waiting to be ridden. Additionally, several parks allow snowmobiling for those who are a little more adventurous. ❄️

Whether you're coming into town for an event or are looking for some outdoor adventure and fun, look no further than Flint & Genesee. Learn more and book your stay at ExploreFlintandGenesee.org.

Ice Dinosaurs Invade Sloan Museum of Discovery

Sloan Museum of Discovery and Longway Planetarium in Flint, Michigan, will be hosting new dinosaur-themed attractions starting in January 2026.

T.Rex and Ice Dinosaurs: the Lost World of the Alaskan Arctic takes visitors on an extraordinary journey through time to explore the majestic ice-age creatures of the Alaskan Arctic. The hands-on exhibit opens January 20 through May 3, 2026, invites visitors to learn about the unique adaptations of polar dinosaurs who lived in cold, dark and snowy conditions year-round.

The exhibition presents a unique look at paleontology, climate science and the survival of ancient species in one of the harshest environments on Earth. Through stunning life-size reconstructions, animatronics, fossils and multimedia exhibits, Ice Dinosaurs invites visitors to experience these magnificent creatures and learn about the mysteries of the Alaskan Arctic during the age of dinosaurs. The exhibition also provides a rare glimpse into how paleontologists uncover clues about these long-extinct species and what they tell us about Earth's ancient past.

T.Rex: The Greatest of all Tyrants, a new giant screen cinematic



T. Rex tells the true story of three kids who discovered a teenage T.Rex fossil.

experience, opens January 27, 2026, at Longway Planetarium, Michigan's largest planetarium show dome. Dinosaurs have long captivated audiences in museums and at the box office, with one standing above the rest—the Tyrannosaurus rex. Advances in CGI wizardry and tyrannosaur paleontology over the past 25 years have set the stage for a new look at the “king” from its early years to its prime. Narrated by Sam Neill, the film tells the remarkable true story of three

kids who discovered a teenage T. Rex fossil, a find that made international headlines in over 2,000 media outlets. Learn More and buy tickets for both the ICE DINOSAURS and T.REX show at SloanLongway.org.

Located within the Flint Cultural Center Campus in Flint, Michigan, Sloan Museum of Discovery and Longway Planetarium are both located on the campus of the Flint Cultural Center. Sloan Museum of Discovery features four primary hands-on learning galleries and one exhibition hall for special traveling exhibits. Parking is free at both venues. 🚗

imagine

JANUARY 20 - MAY 3, 2026

Ideal for the whole family!

ICE DINOSAURS

THE LOST WORLD OF THE ALASKAN ARCTIC

SLOAN
MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY

EXHIBIT INFO & TICKETS!
SloanLongway.org/Ice-Dinos

1221 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503



BY RENU SAGGAR

pools, a soothing way to warm up after a day in the slopes.

The thoughtful in-room amenities, such as microwaves, refrigerators and coffee makers, add a layer of home-like convenience. They are perfect for storing some leftover Michigan pasties, chilling local beverages or preparing a quick snack before heading out. The spacious suites are particularly ideal for families or groups needing extra room to spread out, making your hotel a true sanctuary during your travels.

Planning your Michigan journey is effortless with the Choice Hotels® Mobile App. It's your ultimate travel tool, allowing you to search for hotels, book at the best available rates and manage your reservations all from your smartphone. The app is also your gateway to the award-winning Choice Privileges® loyalty rewards program, highly rated by leading travel publications.

Membership is free and offers immediate benefits. Enjoy exclusive member-only rates, earn points on every stay that can be redeemed for free nights and access instant perks that enhance your travel experience. Every stay brings you closer to your next escape.

Begin planning your unforgettable Pure Michigan getaway today, visit ChoiceHotels.com/Michigan-hotels and explore their properties to discover the perfect home base for your journey. 🏡

Choose Choice Hotels Michigan

From the fiery autumn canopy of the Upper Peninsula to the snow-dusted shores of the Great Lakes, Michigan offers a breathtaking backdrop for every season. Whether you're planning a fall color tour or a winter ski trip, finding the right home base is key to an unforgettable experience.

With their strategically located properties throughout the Great Lakes State, Choice Hotels offers the perfect blend of comfort, value and convenience. Plan a stay at one or more of these hotels: Ascend, Cambria, Comfort Inn, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, Clarion, Mainstay, Econolodge, Roadway Inn, Suburban or Woodstay Suites. After a day spent navigating the trails or exploring a museum or a charming downtown, the *Quality Inn & Suites* brand provides a dependable and comfortable retreat.

Recognized for its consistent, clean and well-appointed rooms, this brand is built for travelers who value practicality without sacrificing comfort. It's an ideal choice for families on a road trip, couples on a scenic getaway or business travelers needing a reliable place to rest.

Your day begins with a complimentary, hearty breakfast—the essential start to a day of Michigan exploration. For those traveling with furry family members,

many select Quality Inn locations are pet-friendly, ensuring your entire pack can enjoy the adventure.

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



Shoreline Inn & Conference Center
Ascend Hotel Collection, Muskegon, MI

SAVE UP TO 20%

For your next Michigan stay, book direct on ChoiceHotels.com and get our lowest price guaranteed.



Visit ChoiceHotels.com/Michigan-hotels or call 1-888-228-5050 to get our lowest price guaranteed.



Qualifying rates only. Valid only for current Choice Privileges® members. Members must book direct at ChoiceHotels.com/Michigan-hotels or call 1-888-228-5050. Reservations must be made at least 7, 14, 21 or 30 days in advance, which will vary based on hotel. Rooms at this discount are limited. Offer not available to groups and cannot be combined with any other discount. Consumers who find lower prices must submit claim within 24 hours of booking and at least 48 hours prior to arrival. Additional Terms and Conditions Apply. See www.choicehotels.com/deals/best-rate and www.choicehotels.com/deals/advanced-purchase for details. Choice Hotels reserves the right to change or discontinue this offer at any time. All Choice Hotels properties are independently owned and operated. ©2019 Choice Hotels International. All rights reserved.



BY RENU SAGGAR

French wine, with a complex blend of history, culture and scenery. At dusk, the skyline soars and glitters against the looming silhouette of *Mont-Royal*.

The mountain that gave Montréal its name is home to *Parc du Mont-Royal*, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and the city's prominent green space. *Kondiaronk Belvedere*, a semicircular plaza overlooking the downtown, offers spectacular views of the city. Fall is also a great time to enjoy the vibrant colors of the changing leaves in Montréal's many parks and natural areas.

Montréal is nicknamed "the city of a hundred steeples." Mark Twain famously joked "this is the first time I was ever in a city where you couldn't throw a brick without breaking a church window." The city is home to four Roman Catholic ba-

Montréal is a French Kiss

Cities built on the banks of a river are hardly unusual. But a city built on an island is a special kind of place. Located just before the first big rapids on the St. Lawrence River, Montréal presides over one of the world's most important shipping lanes.

Originally settled in 1642, Montréal was the jumping off place for explorations into the interior of North America. Old Montréal's cobblestone streets are a walk back in history with structures dating back to the 17th century. *Place Jacques Cartier*, a popular gathering spot since colonial times, is filled with artisans, portrait painters and musicians framed by intimate sidewalk cafés. History buffs appreciate the *Nelson Monument*, a 35-metre high column erected in 1809.

In the eastern part of the Old City you find the Second Empire-style City Hall and the breathtaking *Notre-Dame Basilica*. The Silver-domed *Bonsecours Market* opened in 1847 and features handmade crafts, fashions, jewelry and furniture. The imposing, 19th century neo-classical buildings along St. James Street are a reminder of the days when this was Canada's Wall Street. The old town's riverbank is occupied by the Vieux-Port and flanked by attractions including the *Montréal Science Centre*,

with an IMAX Theatre and the famous *Montréal Clock Tower*.

Today, the second largest French-speaking city in the world is like a fine



The Basilique Notre Dame

silicas including *Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral*, a scale model of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. *Saint Joseph's Oratory* is a Montréal masterpiece and the largest church in Canada. The oratory is home to a magnificent Rudolf von Beckerath organ, ranked among the ten best in the world.

Check out the Montréal Botanical Garden, which feature seasonal installations such as the much-loved Chinese lantern festival in the autumn months. Our take a walk on the wild side with the critters at the *Biodôme*, where five ecosystems are home to over 250 different species of animals.

It's always hockey season in Montréal! Fans can take in a game at the Centre Bell. The *Montréal Canadiens* are the oldest continuously operating professional ice hockey team in the world. According to the International Ice Hockey Federation, the world's first hockey game was played in 1875, at the Victoria rink in Montréal. The game apparently ended in a fight.

Visitors can explore the Underground City or *La Ville Souterraine*, an enormous underground complex integrated into the city's major commercial districts. The largest underground complex in the world has over 20 miles of pedestrian

malls housing hundreds of restaurants and boutiques connecting with shopping malls, movie theatres, museums and hotels, sports and entertainment venues and subway stations.

As one of the longest commercial strips in Canada, *Sainte-Catherine Street* is the perfect place for retail therapy. You'll find international fashion mainstays but don't miss the regional retailers, like the ones offering Montréal-made fashions and leather goods.

Montréal is famous for nightlife. *Crescent Street* is known for its "terrasses." The pretty umbrellas pop up in spring and mark the beginning of leisurely meals or cool drinks out in the urban open. Visitors can also soar 200-feet above the ground on Canada's highest observation wheel is located in the Old Port's Île Bonsecours. Passengers are seated in 42 temperature-controlled gondolas during the 15-minute, three revolution ride.

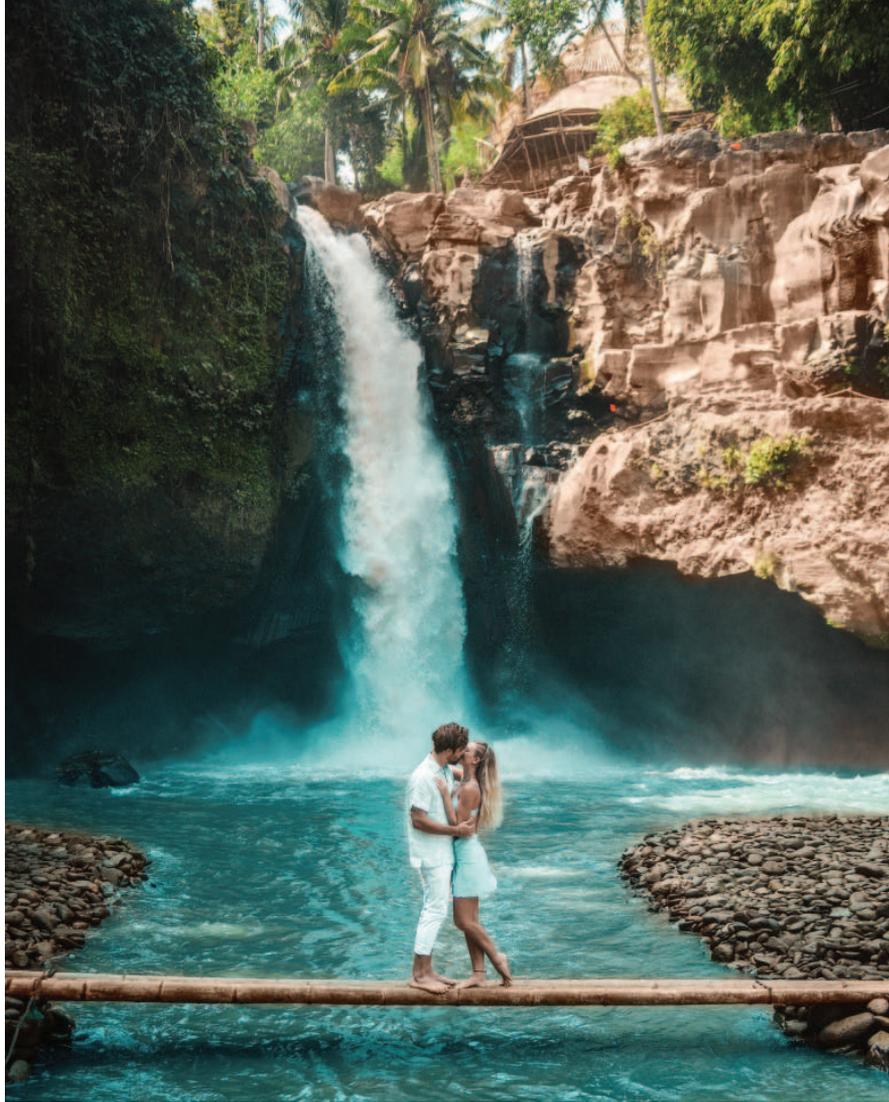
The city offers a mix of haute cuisine and classic Quebecois recipes, with a healthy smattering of culinary traditions hailing from the over 120 ethnicities found on the island for good measure. "La Main" Boulevard Saint-Laurent crams dozens of trendy restaurants, bars, disco-

theques and lounges between Sherbrooke Street and Mont-Royal Avenue. Start the night early with a "5 à 7" happy hour pint. Casual diners can sink their teeth into a juicy smoked-meat sandwich at world-famous *Schwartz's* deli. Discover why Montréal locals fervently adore their bagels at the wood-fire bakeries of *Fairmount Bage*. Sample Quebec's celebrated poutine at *La Banquise*, or *La Banquise*. This humble dish is so much more than just French fries topped with fresh squeaky cheese curds and covered in brown gravy.

Festival season in Montréal is a 365-days-a-year affair. Summer is the time for major festivals like Osheaga, the Montreal Jazz Festival and Just For Laughs comedy festival. During the fall and winter festivals include Igloofest, the signature winter festival and the massive Montréal en Lumière celebration, which features outdoor activities, culinary experiences and performances. Additionally, the city hosts the Montreal International Jazz Festival's Winter Jazzfest and various other events like the Festival International *Nuits d'Afrique*, a worldwide musical gathering featuring the rhythms of Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. 🎵



Bonsecours Market in Old Montreal



BY RENU SAGGAR

located high in Bali's lush highlands, over the beautiful Lake Beratan. Also known as the *Floating Temple*, it hovers over the lake. *Tanah Lot*, perched dramatically on a rocky outcrop amidst crashing waves, is the quintessential Bali postcard and a breathtaking spot for sunset. *Uluwatu Temple*, clinging to the edge of a steep cliff at the island's southern tip, offers equally stunning vistas and is famous for its nightly *Kecak* fire dance, a hypnotic performance telling tales from the Hindu epic Ramayana.

For a truly immersive cultural experience, venture inland to *Ubud*, the island's cultural and artistic heart. Here, the *Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary* is not just a tourist attraction but an important spiritual and conservation center. The *Tegalalang Rice Terraces*, with their emerald-green, cascading paddies, are a stunning testament to the Balinese *subak* system, a cooperative water management method dating back to the 9th century and recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The southern shores are the island's bustling playground. *Kuta Beach*, though famously developed, remains a hub for surfers catching a wave and visitors enjoying its long, sandy stretch and vibrant nightlife. Just north, *Seminyak* and *Canggu* offer a more sophisticated vibe, with trendy beach clubs, chic boutiques and golden sands perfect for sunset cocktails.

The Island of the Gods

Bali is more than a destination. It's the scent of frangipani and incense on the warm, humid air, the symphony of gamelan music and crowing roosters and the profound sense of serenity that settles over you like a gentle mist. Known as the "Island of the Gods," this Indonesian jewel is a captivating paradox—a place where spiritual devotion and vibrant hedonism coexist in perfect, harmonious balance and leave an indelible mark on the soul.

The essence of Bali is its deep-rooted Hindu culture, which permeates every aspect of daily life. The island's spiritual identity is visible at every turn. Unlike Indian Hinduism, Bali Hinduism worships only one god *Acintya*. All other gods are only manifestations of him.

Intricately carved stone temples, or *pura*, dot the landscape, from family compounds to majestic sea cliffs. Daily offerings called *canang sari*—small, beautifully woven palm-leaf baskets filled with flowers, rice and incense—are meticulously placed outside shops, on dashboards of

cars and at temple gates as a gesture of thanks and devotion to the gods.

No visit is complete without witnessing its majestic temples. *Pura Ulun Danu* is



Dance and dramas are an integral part of daily life

Bewitching Bali

For a different perspective, the eastern coast boasts the powdery white sand of *Sanur*, a calm and family-friendly beach protected by a reef, ideal for swimming and paddleboarding. Further east, the remote *Virgin Beach* near Candidasa provides a glimpse of a quieter, more untouched Bali.

The *Bukit Peninsula*, south of the airport, is a surfer's paradise. Beaches like Bingin, Padang Padang and Uluwatu are framed by dramatic limestone cliffs and offer some of the most consistent and challenging waves on the planet. For those seeking sheer, jaw-dropping beauty, *Nusa Dua* features pristine, manicured beaches with crystal-clear water, often fronting luxury resorts.

Balinese food is a vibrant explosion of flavors, a complex blend of spicy, sweet, salty, and sour. The foundation of many dishes is *bumbu*, a rich base of shallots, garlic, chilies, ginger, turmeric, and shrimp paste ground into a fragrant paste.

You cannot leave without trying *Babi Guling* (suckling pig), the island's most

celebrated dish. The pig is marinated in a symphony of spices, slow-roasted until the skin is impossibly crackly and served with rice, *lawar* (a spicy vegetable mix) and blood sausage. *Bebek Betutu* (slow-cooked duck) is another ceremonial staple, smoked for up to 24 hours until the meat falls tenderly from the bone.

For a hands-on experience, join a local cooking class. More casual, everyday delights include *Nasi Campur* (a plate of rice accompanied by small portions of various meats, vegetables and sambal) and *Sate Lilit* (minced seafood satay wrapped around lemongrass sticks). Wash it all down with a fresh coconut or a local *Bintang beer*.

Shopping in Bali is an adventure in itself, ranging from hectic market haggling to browsing exquisite art galleries.

Ubud Market is a labyrinth of stalls selling everything from silk sarongs and woven baskets, to intricate woodcarvings and dreamcatchers. Embrace the art of negotiation—it's all part of the fun. For higher-quality handicrafts, the nearby villages specialize in specific arts: *Celuk* for silver jewelry, *Mas* for woodworking, and *Batubulan* for stone carvings.

In the south, Seminyak is the epicenter of designer chic, home to countless boutiques featuring clothing, homeware and unique accessories from both local and international designers. For a one-stop-shop for beautiful, authentic goods, the *Sukawati Art Market* is a favorite among locals and offers a vast array of traditional paintings, textiles and ceremonial items at excellent prices.

Above the temples, beaches and food, it is the people—the Balinese—who truly make the island magical. Their warmth, kindness and ever-present smiles are genuine and infectious. There is a deep-seated philosophy of balance and community known as *Tri Hita Karana*, which emphasizes harmony with god, other people and the environment. This is why you'll see communities coming together for temple ceremonies and why a stranger will gladly help you with directions.

Their resilience and grace are humbling. They greet visitors not as interruptions, but as honored guests. Whether it's a farmer in the rice fields pausing to smile, a shopkeeper offering or a driver passionately explaining a local custom, you will always be welcomed. 🙏



Pura Ulun Danu temple on the shores of Lake Beratan



Azamara's White Night Party

BY RENU SAGGAR

exploration. Their 13-night British Isles itinerary, embarks from Southampton and finishes in the majestic city of Edinburgh. It is less a vacation and more an immersive cultural odyssey, masterfully blending destination-focused exploration.

Southampton, England's historic port city, is a gateway brimming with its own maritime legacy. Before boarding, history buffs can explore its medieval walls and the renowned *SeaCity Museum*.

Sailing up the River Mersey Liverpool, is a moment steeped in musical history. The Beatles are, of course, the main draw and fans can explore *The Beatles Story* museum, pose by the statues of the Fab Four and catch a gig at the legendary Cavern Club. But Liverpool's soul extends beyond music, admire the twin cathedrals that crown the city skyline and delve into its profound maritime history at the *Merseyside Maritime Museum*.

Days at sea are a pleasure to be savoured. You might start your morning with a latte from *Mosaic Café*, before attending a destination lecture on the fascinating history of Celtic folklore. Later, find a serene spot by the saltwater pool or indulge in a treatment at the Sanctum Spa.

Sail Away on Azamara Cruises

Azamara Cruises was created for those who not only want to see the places they visit, but live them. With their fleet of midsize ships, the destination-immersive cruise line offers more late-night and overnight stays. Indulge in all the ambience of a European-boutique hotel with extraordinary service and gourmet cuisine, all while sailing to memorable ports and off-the-beaten-path destinations larger ships cannot reach.

From the moment you step aboard, the atmosphere is one of relaxed sophistication. The white, navy and wood-accented décor feels more like a luxurious boutique hotel than a sprawling megaship. With just under 700 guests, the crew quickly learns your name and preferences, fostering a warm, club-like ambience that is Azamara's signature.

Azamara's itineraries highlight the brand's commitment to travelers who want to connect with local cultures. Most cruise lines only offer shore excursions during the day, but destinations come alive at night. Azamara's complimentary

AzAmazing Evenings are authentic, exclusive events that showcase a destination's nocturnal colors, sounds and flavors.

For the discerning traveller who seeks depth over mere distance, Azamara Cruise Lines offers the perfect vessel for this



Azamara Journey

Azamara's culinary offerings are a highlight. *Discoveries Restaurant*, the main dining room, offers open-seating fine dining with a menu that changes daily, featuring both timeless classics and regionally inspired dishes. For a more intimate experience, the two specialty restaurants are well worth the supplemental fee. *Aqualina* serves sublime Mediterranean seafood and Italian cuisine in an elegant setting, while *Prime C* is a classic American steakhouse with stunning ocean views. For a more casual bite, *The Patio* offers grilled favourites and salads by the pool and the *Windows Café* presents extensive buffet-style meals, with fantastic themed dinners and an unparalleled outdoor aft deck for al fresco dining under the stars. On Azamara beer, wine, spirits and onboard gratuities are always included.

Evenings onboard are equally enticing. The *Cabaret Lounge* hosts a variety of world-class entertainment, from West End-style musical reviews to talented comedians and magicians. After the show, the living evolves. The *Discoveries Bar* buzzes with pre-dinner conversation, while the *Living Room*, a multi-level lounge high on the ship, transforms into a vibrant nightclub with a DJ, where

guests can dance the night away. And no Azamara voyage is complete without their legendary *White Night* party—an evening where the entire pool deck becomes a festive open-air restaurant and dance floor, culminating in a spectacular buffet and crew performance.

Belfast, Northern Ireland is the gateway to *Giant's Causeway*. An Azamara shore excursion here is highly recommended. This breathtaking UNESCO site, with its 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, is a geological wonder shrouded in myth. Back in the city, feel the pulse of modern Belfast. Visit the magnificent *Titanic Belfast* museum—an architectural marvel built in the very shipyard where the ill-fated liner was born—and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of the Victorian-era at *St. George's Market*.

Dublin, the Irish capital, is a city of literature, libation and life. *Trinity College* and the *Book of Kells* are essential viewing, a testament to the island's scholarly history. Then, immerse yourself in the city's famous social culture. Follow the trail from *Temple Bar's* bustling pubs to a quieter traditional pub for a perfect pint of Guinness. A tour of the St. James's Gate Brewery is a rite of passage. St.

Stephen's Green offers a peaceful respite, while *Grafton Street* provides world-class shopping and busking.

Glasgow, Scotland is a city renowned for its vibrant energy and stunning Victorian architecture. Art lovers will be in heaven at the *Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum*, while design enthusiasts can explore the legacy of *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*. Alternatively, many choose to venture into the sublime Scottish countryside. A journey into *Loch Lomond* and the *Trossachs National Park* offers a taste of the Highlands' raw beauty, with serene lochs and rolling hills that feel a world away from the city.

The grand finale of the voyage is nothing short of spectacular. Edinburgh is a city of awe-inspiring contrasts. Explore the historic Royal Mile, which climbs from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to the imposing Edinburgh Castle, perched atop an extinct volcanic crag. Lose yourself in the winding alleys of the Old Town, then discover the elegant Georgian grace of the New Town. As you disembark here for the final time, you carry not just souvenirs, but the profound sense of having connected with the rugged, poetic soul of the British Isles. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿





BY RENU SAGGAR

by ancient glaciers.

Lake Louise 36-miles west of Banff, is a liquid emerald framed by snow-clad domes and Victoria Glacier. The water's mysterious blue green tint comes from fine, glacial "rock flour" particles suspended in the water. Whether you see it emerald green in the summer sun or transformed into a vast, frozen wonderland in winter, its grandeur, is utterly spellbinding. You can also take a 4-km hike past Bridal Veil Falls to Lake Agnes, which offers one of the best views of Lake Louise.

Hiking is the best way to explore the Canadian Rockies and from Chateau Lake Louise there are miles of interesting trails and sites. One of the most popular trails will take you two and a half miles up mountain, with no ropes or crampons to the *Lake Agnes Teahouse*. The more adventurous may want to hike to Moraine Lake, a seven hour excursion that takes you up Fairview Mountain, over Saddleback Pass

A Rocky Mountain High in Banff

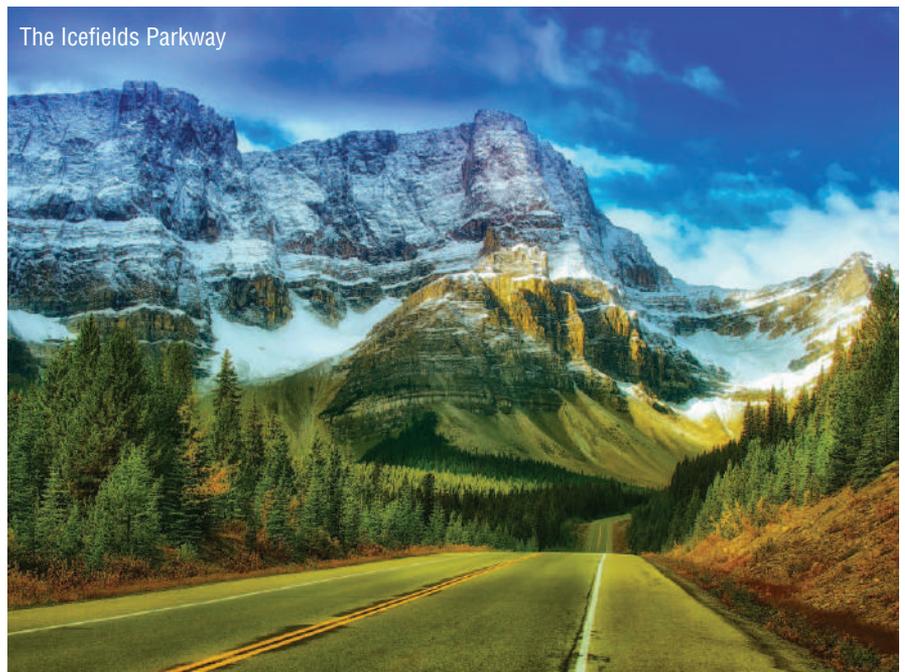
Canada's Rocky Mountain parks are a synapse snapping, experience filled with white water, wild mountains and wilder animals. Crimson alpine sunsets hover over glacier-fed moraine lakes that shimmer a supernatural shade of blue. Here the silence is broken only by the bugling of an elk or the call of the loon. More than just a destination, Banff is an experience—a breathtaking symphony of emerald lakes, jagged mountain peaks and untamed wilderness that captures the soul and refuses to let go.

The Icefields Parkway, is a 232-kilometre stretch of road widely considered one of the most scenic drives on the planet. Following the Bow River toward Banff, the ice-mantled mountains include the Three Sisters and turreted Castle Mountain, made famous as a backdrop in the film *Doctor Zhivago*. But the crown jewels of this rugged landscape are its lakes.

A visit to Moraine Lake is a pilgrimage every traveller must make. Nestled in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, its waters

are a surreal, almost unbelievable shade of turquoise, a phenomenon caused by light refracting off fine rock flour ground

The Icefields Parkway



into Moraine Lake and the Valley of Ten.

Venture further to discover the staggering power of nature at the Columbia Icefield, the largest expanse of ice in the Rocky Mountains. Standing on the Athabasca Glacier, a tongue of the icefield you can walk or take a massive Ice Explorer vehicle, is a humbling encounter with the raw, ancient heart of the continent.

Banff's allure changes with the seasons, offering a unique menu of activities no matter when you visit. Summer is for hiking. Trails range from gentle strolls like the paved path along the Bow River to challenging ascents.

The spectacular Rockies form backdrop to a wealth of activities from the exhilaration of downhill skiing to tranquil hikes amid fields of wild flowers. Winter transforms the region into a snow-globe paradise. The "Big Three" ski resorts—Sunshine Village, Lake Louise and Mt. Norquay—offer some of the best powder and most stunning alpine vistas in North America. For a more serene experience, strap on a pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis and glide through silent, snow-laden forests. A must-do is a ride on the Banff Gondola up Sulphur Mountain. The 360-degree panoramic view from the

summit boardwalk of a million snow-capped peaks is a memory that will last a lifetime. Some of the mountains have Hoodoos, which are human-like rock pillars, formed during the last ice age.

After a day of exploration, the culinary scene in Banff provides a welcome and surprisingly sophisticated refuge. This is a place to refuel with hearty, mountain-inspired cuisine. You'll find everything from classic Canadian pub fare to world-class cuisine.

For a truly authentic experience, indulge in fondue at the Grizzly House, a Banff institution since 1967. For a taste of Canadiana, stop at Park Distillery for spirits crafted from glacier-fed water and a menu centred around campfire-inspired dishes. Don't leave without trying Alberta beef, renowned for its quality, at a local steakhouse. And for a cozy apres-ski or hike, nothing beats finding a seat by a roaring fireplace with a local craft beer or a Bloody Caesar—Canada's robust take on the Bloody Mary.

Banff's accommodations are as diverse as its landscape, catering to every taste and budget. For those seeking historic grandeur, the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel is unparalleled. This legendary

castle-like hotel, built in 1888, offers old-world charm, impeccable service and views that are nothing short of majestic.

In town, you'll find a plethora of charming inns, lodges and modern hotels like the Moose Hotel and Suites, many featuring rooftop hot pools perfect for stargazing after a long day.

For a more rustic and immersive experience, consider staying at one of the campgrounds or the historic Storm Mountain Lodge cabins, nestled quietly in the woods between Banff and Lake Louise.

Beyond the sights and activities, the true magic of Banff is intangible. It's the feeling of awe that washes over you as you go round a bend and see a landscape so perfect it looks painted. It's the profound silence of a mountain summit. It's the warmth of a friendly small-town community thriving within a vast, wild wilderness. It's the reminder of our place in a grand, beautiful and powerful natural world.

Seeing these rocky canyons past ancient glaciers and cascading rivers reminds you that once there was nothing but land, not a country at all, but the material from which a country is made. 🇨🇦



Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge

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 they've been awarded the 2025 *Consumer Choice Award* for the 3rd consecutive year!

Mezzo Owner Darcy King has also put together a crack team of hospitality heavyweights including a Head Chef. The restaurant's elegant interior has also updated with the theme of "Amalfi Coast Nights." The new decor features deep blues, rich golds and pops of lemon. Live music, soft lighting and comfortable seating create an inviting and intimate atmosphere.



Mezzo's new Deep Blue exterior Savor a half dozen freshly shucked, delectable P.E.I. Oysters, offered daily, or the lightly floured calamari tossed with onions and herbs and served with chipotle aioli. A dinner favourite is *Spigola* — pan seared European Sea Bass fillet with fire roasted tomatoes, basil and lemon zest, accompanied by basmati rice

and daily vegetable. Or, savor Mezzo's Beef Tenderloin, pan-seared 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.

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.

An eclectic contemporary atmosphere, specialty cocktails and live entertainment are the ingredients for one of Windsor's most appealing destinations. Mezzo's popular Happy Hour is back Tuesday to Friday, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Enjoy 20% off House wine, liquor, select beer brands and select cocktails. Plus, 20% off selected Apps created by the Chef.

If you're considering a Christmas or New Years event or a romantic Valentine's dinner complete with champagne, add Mezzo to your list. Surrounded by beautifully etched glass walls, Mezzo's private room can accommodate between 35 and 40 guests and can be set up to host a variety of functions. It's perfect for meetings, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other milestone events.

Planning a party? Mezzo's catering service offers the same great taste at your location. Affordable and delicious it's perfect for any gathering or occasion.

Mezzo also offers most regular menu items for takeout. Their *Gourmet Boxes to Go* consisting of Mezzo's most popular appetizers, have become an enormous success. 🍷

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

Premium Casual Dining at Artisan Grill

Fresh ingredients, artfully prepared, outstanding service, a warm ambience and an extensive wine menu are the hallmarks of your dining experience at Artisan Grill. Located in a heritage building in the heart of Amherstburg's charming and historic downtown, the atmosphere is warm, intimate and sophisticated, with a modern yet comfortable decor. You can dress up or down or dress in between. Either way you're going to enjoy a variety of carefully chosen menu options to satisfy all palettes. Chef Matthew Johnston focuses on creating dishes from scratch using high-quality, ingredients.

For starters, the crispy *Truffle Frites* are a must-try shared plate. The *Lobster Thermidor* is nothing short of iconic. Sweet, tender lobster bathed in garlic and butter in chili cream sauce, served with house made pappardella noodles—a dish so good it often sells out. Another star is the *Baby Back Ribs* that fall apart at the touch of a fork. Charbroiled to perfection and smothered in bourbon barbiq sauce, its deep, savory flavor, often accompanied by creamy mashed potatoes, it's the very definition of comfort food elevated to fine dining.

They also offer a well-curated selection of wines that pair nicely with the menu as well as craft cocktails and beer.

Celebrate autumn with Artisan Grill's *Fall Fusion* feature menu! It features sensational new dishes, as well as keeping some past favourites. They've included a variety of vegetarian and gluten-free dishes, as well as many items that can be modified to accommodate special requests. Try the *Pumpkin Ravioli* — half moons of pumpkin-filled ravioli in warm brown butter, sage and brown sugar Nappe or the *Grilled Maple Glazed Pork Chop* — accompanied by redskin garlic mashed potatoes and tarragon and brown butter carrot coins.

Artisan Grill has now added a Limousine service to their venue. Whether it's a special occasion or dinner party they have you covered. Arrive in style at Artisan Grill, without worrying about parking, designated drivers or navigating after dark. They also specialize in local wine tours, prom nights, birthdays or weddings. Choose between a 24 person party bus or an 8 seat luxury sprinter. It's certain to make your event or excursion a memorable one!

If you're looking for a creative, chef-driven meal in a lovely setting, you will have a wonderful time at Artisan Grill. It's a standout establishment that has earned its strong reputation in the local food culture. Service is friendly with an attentive and knowledgeable staff. It's a very popular spot, so reservations are highly recommended, especially on weekends or for special occasions like Valentine's Day.

Artisan's team is standing by to take your reservation for your corporate or holiday party, New Years, Valentines Day or any special occasion. 🍷

Visit them online at artisangrill.ca.



Artisan Grill's Heritage building locale



MEZZO

WHERE STYLE MEETS TASTE



Mark of Excellence and Winner of Top Choice Award 2023 ☆☆☆☆☆

*Enjoy our casual atmosphere with a unique balance of stylish metropolitan flare
and unprecedented Italian cuisine with eclectic and modern accents.*

WEDDINGS . BRIDAL SHOWERS . BACHELOR(ETTES) PARTIES
REHEARSAL DINNERS. ENGAGEMENT PARTIES . FULL CATERING SERVICES

804 Erie Street | Via Italia Windsor | 519-252 4055 | www.mezzo.ca

A La Mode Has A Passion For Fashion

What sets *A La Mode Ladies Fashions* apart is their ability to combine the latest fashion trends with timeless pieces that withstand the test of time. A La Mode brings you the top-notch collections from Europe, Canada and much more.

Cream sits at the intersection of high-fashion design and wearable art. The Danish designer is for women who love



Cream at A La Mode

bohemian luxury with a Scandinavian touch. Every collection is imbued with a wealth of details and defining surprises. Cream's designs are inherently feminine, but in a powerful, modern way. They masterfully balance sophistication with a sense of fun that prevent their pieces from feeling too serious or austere.

UCHUU (which means "universe" in Japanese) embodies a unique fusion of Japanese minimalism blended with distinctively Montréal urban

sensibility. The Canadian brand projects an image of intelligent, conscious and understated cool. The Montréal based firm is built on a foundation of "slow fashion," prioritizing timeless design, ethical production and high-quality materials over fleeting trends. Every piece is designed with both aesthet-

ics and utility in mind. Details like adjustable ties, reversible designs and multi-way wear are common, making the clothing interactive and personal.

Culture embodies the essence of "effortless Scandinavian cool." Their identity is built on a foundation of understated elegance, functionality and a deep appreciation for timeless design over fast-moving trends. The Danish fashion company has a credo of Modern Minimalism. They strip away the unnecessary, focusing on clean lines, simple silhouettes and a cohesive aesthetic. There is an inherent elegance and "grown-up" feel to their collections. Despite their clean aesthetic, their clothes are designed for real life. They prioritize comfortable fabrics and flattering fits that move with the body.

A La Mode also carries a great selection of accessories: purses, jewelry, shoes and much more. Join them on Facebook every Monday at 9 a.m. and Thursday at 5 p.m. for live stream fashion shows featuring fun outfits and ensemble inspirations!

In store their knowledgeable staff will assist you in finding exactly what you're looking for. Professional alterations can be done by *Pavel's Tailor Shop*, an independent business located on the top floor of the store.

Embrace the fall winter season at A La Mode. Their collections are designed to dress you all the way up and all the way down and accompany every adventure with effortless style.

A La Mode is located at 52 Richmond Street in Amherstburg.

Visit their website alamodefashions.ca for their store hours.



 **dk company**

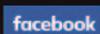
CREAM
and
CULTURE

A La Mode
ladies shoes, fashions and accessories

www.alamodefashions.ca

AMHERSTBURG • 52 Richmond St. • 519-736-1475

Fashion Shows: Monday 9am & Thursday 5pm on





séxūal *Paris*

MICHEL GERMAIN
Parfum

EXCLUSIVELY AT
MACY'S AND MACYS.COM
MICHELGERMAIN.COM
HUDSON'S BAY

 MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

On YOUR MARQ



TRAVEL
MARQUETTE

TRAVELMARQUETTE.COM