



Some vacations become part of us. The beauty and experiences come home with us and beckon us back. Ohio's Hocking Hills in winter is such a place. Breathtaking scenery, outdoor adventures, prehistoric caves, frozen waterfalls, and cozy cabins, take root and call you back again and again. Bring your sense of adventure and your heart to the Hocking Hills and you'll count the days until you can return. Explore the Hocking Hills, Ohio's Natural Crown Jewels.



Shop for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts during the 5th Annual Hocking Hills Holiday Treasure Hunt and enter to win one of more than 25 prizes and a Grand Prize Getaway for 4.



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TREES PLANTE





Take in a New Jersey Devils game at Prudential Center

Newark is ready for prime time

ewark is having a moment. Long considered a poor cousin to New York City, it's finally coming into its own. While the mere mention of The Big Apple can inspire glittering images of Broadway and Times Square, Newark was probably best known for its airport. New York is the beating heart of the visible world, but Newark, just across the Hudson River, was mostly consigned to that special kind of opprobrium reserved for sidekicks and relatives of the famous.

Overlooked and under appreciated Newark has gradually emerged from under the considerable shadow of its glamorous neighbor, earning accolades for its burgeoning culinary and cultural scene. Hip galleries like Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art and City Without Walls are part of a vibrant arts renaissance.

Buildings are springing up like dandelions, while stately downtown landmarks are being rehabbed into uspscale apartments and condominiums. Construction cranes have become Newark's official municipal bird. About \$4.5 billion worth of development is now under way. Just how far has Newark come? The city recently made the 20 city shortlist for Amazon's HQ2.

One of the most ethnically diverse cities in America, it's a modern-day Babel,

a multicultural mashup whose residents speak multitude of tongues and celebrate their roots. One of Newark's largest annual celebrations is its *Brazilian Independence Day Festival* held over Labor Day weekend.

And even its most ardent admirers will happily point out that it's still only a few minutes away from Manhattan.

Newark's location and relative affordability have drawn a creative class of artists, entrepreneurs and inventors who

BY RENU SAGGAR

are not afraid to disrupt the status quo. *Audible,* the world's largest producer of audio books, has become an active player in the city's renaissance. They bring talented performers like Emma Thompson, Mahershala Ali and Nick Offerman to interpret great texts that listeners can enjoy anytime, anywhere.

The *Grammy Museum Experience*, which opened in Newark's Prudential Center in 2017, is an interactive, experiential museum devoted to the history and winners of the Grammy Awards. Cutting-edge exhibits and interactive experiences help guests explore a host of musical genres. Learn how to rap or take a drum lesson at the E Street Band's Max Weinberg. Some of New Jersey's most famous stars and homegrown talent are featured here, including Frank Sinatra and Bruce Springsteen.

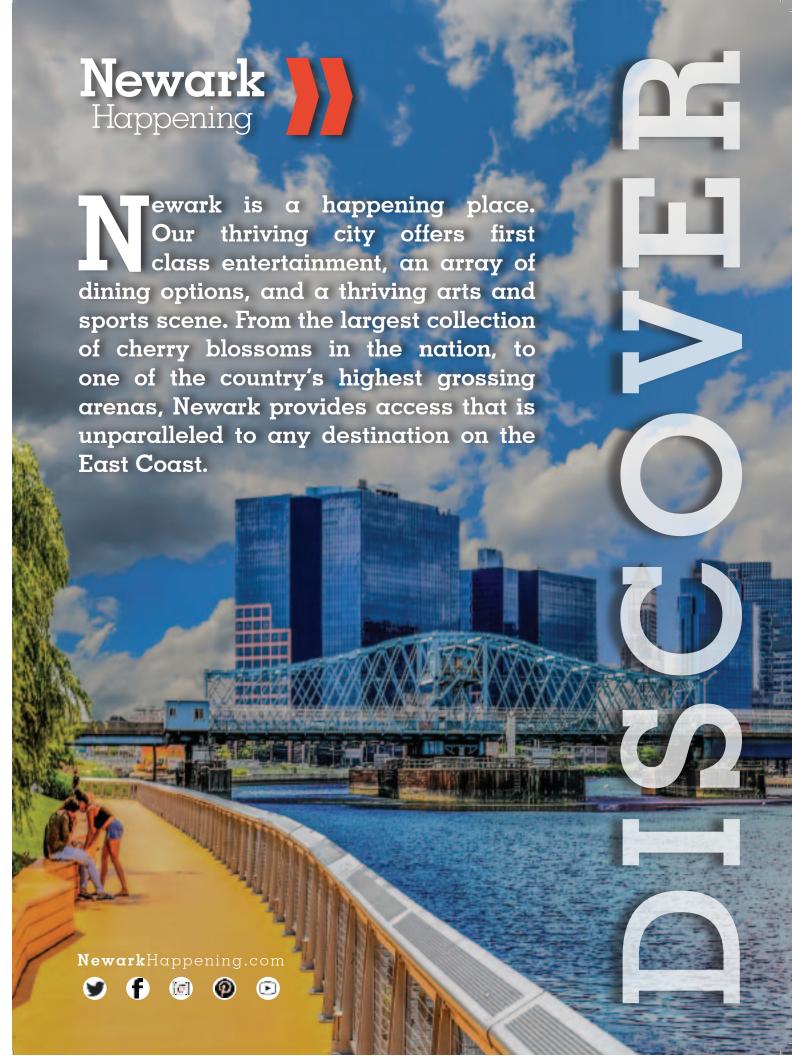
Newark offers plenty of dining options. Nico Kitchen + Bar is a sleek, high-ceilinged bar & bistro offering high-end Italian shared plates, cocktails and wine. Guest favorites include roasted scallops, and gnocchi tossed in a spicy sausage Bolognese sauce. Located inside the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the bar area actually looks into the theater lobby.

Hockey fans can take in a New Jersey Devils game in the Prudential Center, affectionately known as "The Rock," the center also hosts concerts, wrestling and special events. They even celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving.

Visit www.newarkhappening.com.



The Newark Skyline



BY RENU SAGGAR



The Liberty Science Center decorated for the holidays

Making learning an adventure Jersey City's Liberty Science Center

lanning a visit to New York City?
Save big when you stay and play right across the river in New Jersey. Located less than a mile from lower Manhattan, the region offers world-class hotels with astonishing views of the Big Apple. Safe, convenient public transportation can whisk you into New York or along the riverside to experience the diverse culture, cuisine and exciting vibe of the fastest growing area along the U.S. East Coast – Hudson County, New Jersey.

Liberty Science Center is the top destination in Hudson County's uber-cool Jersey City, often referred to as New York's Sixth Borough. This award-winning museum is crammed with cool things to do and see for ages 2 and up, including the largest planetarium outside of Asia.

The *Science Center* houses 12 museum exhibition halls, an animal collection with 110 species including naked mole rats and piranha fish, giant aquariums, a 3D theater, hurricane and tornado force wind simulators and more. Starting in May, 2020, guests can visit the outdoor *Dino Dig* exhibit and search through tons of sand to uncover authentic dinosaur casts representing the most famous Montana fossil beds.

On any given day you may encounter some amazing new technology, science demonstrations on lightning, rockets or liquid nitrogen, special science challenges and more. LSC's seasonal fun includes a really scary haunted house, a fall farm festival, year's-end celebrations and more. Check LSC.org to see what's going on now!

If your tweens and adults love adventure, LSC has them covered. Use your senses to navigate the 80-foot, crawlthrough, pitch-black *Touch Tunnel*, one of LSC's most legendary exhibitions. Finding your way through an unknown environment in the dark makes you realize how much we rely on sight.

Then explore the *Infinity Climber Crawl*. Scramble and balance your way through the world's first suspended climbing play space. Its multiple routes and pathways that will take you as high as 35 feet above the floor. Finally, strap on a harness and step out along a steel beam in the *Skyscraper* exhibit, just as construction workers do.

Younger kids can build anything they can imagine in *Block Party* using enormous lightweight blocks. They also have their own private *I Explore* gallery with a 12-foot-high ball machine and

other delights, plus a traveling exhibit selected just for them. Past examples are Curious George, Dora the Explorer and this season's Dinosaur Train. The young learner traveling exhibit is free with general admission.

Everyone loves *Pixelpalooza*, their wall-sized video game. Families can work together to uncover a hidden picture by waving and leaping around to clear pixels from a huge screen. When the countdown clock expires, the system grabs your photos to share on Twitter or Facebook. On the floor just below is an art piece called the *Dream Machine* that doubles as a play center for all ages. Use a bicycle pump to initiate a cascade of lights, fun music and odors that waft from huge tuba-like structures. When everyone works together, the effect is amazing!

Premium and Combo tickets include a visit to their featured traveling exhibit. In the past they have shown Titanic, Mythbusters, Sherlock Holmes and many others. Through mid-April of 2020 they are featuring *Angry Birds Universe*, where you can join the flock, complete with giant slingshots.

After hours of exploring, end your visit in the Science Center's thrilling space theater – the Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium, largest of its kind outside of Asia. This stunning space boasts an 89-foot domed screen with a resolution of 88 million pixels and speakers capable of producing 30,000 watts of digital sound. Rocket into space and explore the solar system or travel across the cosmos to see weird stars and the destructive power of black holes, all via beautiful and detailed NASA and Hubble Space Telescope images.

Other exhibits worth a visit include *Infection Connection* that explores the world of microbes and features real hands-on mini lab experiences. *Communication* looks at how we ... well...communicate with each other. *Energy Quest* is where guests learn where power comes from. The *Skyscraper* exhibit includes several pieces from the World Trade Center disaster and more!

For more information see lsc.org.





Calandra's Mediterranean Grill

Calandra family business spans generations

uciano Calandra, and his wife Ortenza, had been in America for just five years when they opened a small Italian and French bakery in 1962. The Italian immigrants worked day and night, and their bakery quickly developed a reputation for producing incredible bread.

The business prospered and soon the Calandra's two sons, Anthony and Luciano Jr., began working in the family business. Mr. Calandra not only taught his sons the inner workings of the bakery, but the value of a strong work ethic, an emphasis on family and a belief that the customer is always right. Over 50 years later, Mr. Calandra's philosophy remains their guiding light. Today, their three bakeries deliver baked goods to more than 500 supermarkets, delis and restaurants in the tri-state area.

The Calandra's have grown their family business into a full-fledged food and hospitality empire with hotels, restaurants, and apartment buildings in northern New Jersey. Each one of their hotels has been recently renovated and caters to both corporate and leisure travelers.

Located in Jersey City's Newport Center, the Holland Hotel is seconds away from the Holland Tunnel and PATH trains, making access to New York City a breeze. The AAA Diamond rated property is an



Zucca Fritta Insalata

ideal destination for anyone visiting NYC, but who do not want to pay Manhattan prices. Amenities include cable TV, mini fridge and a microwave.

The Hampton Inn & Suites in Fairfield, is just 30 minutes from Newark International Airport, the MetLife Stadium, and provides the perfect base for discovering area attractions. *Calandra's Mediterranean Grill*, located inside the hotel, is a family-friendly restaurant offering Northern Italian dishes with a Mediterranean flair. It features an open kitchen, dining room, lobby bar, outdoor seating in the spring and summer and a fireside lobby dining in the winter.

The Best Western Plus Fairfield Executive Inn, provide guests with easy access to New York City and offers a variety of services and amenities. The hotel features 170 newly renovated rooms, a state of the art fitness center and free high-speed wire-

BY RENU SAGGAR

less Internet access. *Cucina Calandra*, the onsite restaurant, is a "family kitchen", providing classic Italian cuisine that centers on southern Italian cooking.

The Hampton Inn Carlstadt–is located just minutes from MetLife Stadium, the IZOD Center and the Meadowlands Racetrack. The location is also perfect for its proximity to the Meadowlands Expo Center, Newark and Teterboro airports and the NJ Transit bus stop across the street.

Calandra's Italian Village on Bloomfield Avenue in Caldwell, NJ, will make you feel like you've been transported back to Italy. Sample Calandra's award-winning cannoli at the bakery and take home pastries, pies, cakes and cookies or a loaf of their all natural bread which comes hot out of the oven every hour!

The *Il Vecchio Cafe* offers high-quality Italian dishes in an open-concept dining room perfect for groups and families alike. The menu features a delicious selection of homemade pastas, entrees, panini sandwiches, burgers and salads in addition to pizzas, flatbreads and calzones all baked in a wood burning brick oven.

The *La Taverna* bar and lounge offers the perfect atmosphere for everything from a working lunch to a great night out. Most Friday and Saturday evenings, they feature live entertainment.

Calandra's Italian Market & Deli offers a full line of cold Italian sandwiches and hot pressed paninis, homemade soups, sauces and pastas. They feature a variety of Italian specialty items including fresh mozzarella, hot and sweet Italian sausage, fresh cheeses. The family also produces and sells their own line of olive oil, coffee, fresh pasta, homemade sauces and wines from their vineyard in Italy.

Gelato means "ice cream" in Italian, and *La Gelateria* features a menu of over 20 enticing flavors of gelato and sorbets. There's also a take out window and an espresso bar.

Visit them at calandrasitalianvillage.com.



Contact line: 877-MLCVB-US



meadowlandslive.com



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



The Holland Hotel is conveniently located at the entrance of the Holland Tunnel and a quick walk to the PATH trains, making it the most convenient and affordable option for your visit to New York City! Minutes away from Downtown NYC, Newark International Airport and Cape Liberty Cruise Port, the Holland Hotel features 71 newly renovated rooms and offers complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi and free parking for both cars and tour buses. Our friendly staff is ready to make your stay a comfortable and memorable one! Looking to catch a show at Prudential Center or watch a game at MetLife Stadium? The Holland Hotel's proximity to several entertainment and sporting venues gives our guests the ability to see it all!









TheHollandHotel.com

175 12th Street, Jersey City, New Jersey 07310 (201) 963-6200

MENTION CROSSINGS MAGAZINE WHEN YOU BOOK DIRECT AT OUR HOTEL & RECEIVE A SPECIAL RATE



New Jersey's call of the mall

roximity to New York City, along with New Jersey's no sales tax on clothes and shoes have earned the Meadowlands and Bergen County the title of Mallville USA.

The Westfield Garden State Plaza in Paramus, is one of the busiest malls in the country. This power shopping destination is anchored by Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Macy's and Lord & Taylor and features brands like Tesla, Boss and Tiffany &Co.

Over the past year, a dozen new retailers have opened at the center including Warby Parker, Rituals and Morphe to name a few. Westfield Garden State Plaza recently introduced a new permanent contemporary art collection, featuring work by cutting-edge New York and global artists.

Located just down the road is the *Outlets* at Bergen Town Center. While the Plaza caters to the carriage trade, the Outlets has carved out a remarkable off-price niche with retailers like Bloomingdale's The Outlet Store, Marshalls, Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH, Target, Nordstrom Rack, Neiman Marcus Last Call and much more.

Just don't plan on going on a Sunday. Bergen County Blue Laws prohibit most sales on Sunday and the malls are not open.

The *Shops at Riverside* in Hackensack, has been polishing its image as the most luxurious mall in North Jersey. It's a

beautiful and sophisticated retail destination for world-class luxury shopping, dining and entertainment. Spanning two levels, it's home to Bloomingdale's, an AMC Dine-in Theatre, and a full-service day spa Shoppers will experience an unrivaled collection of high-end specialty stores including Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co. and Salvatore Ferragamo, as well as "New Jersey's own Restaurant Row," with eight full-service restaurants including Morton's Steakhouse and The Cheesecake Factory.

BY RENU SAGGAR

The Mills at Jersey Gardens, located in Elizabeth is New Jersey's largest outlet and value retail center with over 200 stores all under one roof! Look for amazing values at the best brand outlets including Michael Kors, Coach, True Religion, Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, PUMA and Guess.

Newport Centre in Jersey City is the premier shopping destination in Hudson County. The mall offers three levels of shopping in the heart of the Newport Hudson Waterfront Community. Conveniently located adjacent to the Holland Tunnel, the center features more than 130 specialty shops and department stores, ranging from women's apparel, to health and beauty to sporting goods. Level 3 features an 11 screen cinema and a 1,000 seat Dining Pavilion with over 19 eateries.

The first phase of the long-awaited American Dream Mall in East Rutherford recently opened in October. The \$5 billion project features a Nickelodeon-themed park with 25 rides and attractions, as well as a regulation NHL-sized ice rink. The 3 million square foot property will eventually feature 450 shops, services and amenities, complemented by the best in entertainment, food, art and culture and 15 major attractions. These will include North America's largest fully-enclosed indoor DreamWorks Water Park, a 16-story Big Snow Indoor Ski & Snow Park, and 285-foot-tall Observation Wheel.



It's two for the money in Erie & Grove City

rie and Grove City, located in Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Region, is a shopping hub for Canadian visitors, featuring no sales tax on clothing and shoes in Pennsylvania! Only 4 hours from Toronto, the shopping districts are easily accessible off Interstate 79, 90, 80 and 86 offering plenty of shops, boutiques, markets, plazas and outlets to choose from.

Begin your adventure at the Millcreek Mall Complex (150

stores and restaurants) and Upper Peach Street district are perfect for great steals and deals. Erie features discount clothing stores, consignment shops, farmers markets and unique boutiques like Relish Inc. and Glass Growers Gallery, offering distinctive gifts for that special someone. Treat yourself to Erie's wineries, breweries, casino and cultural attractions after your shopping spree. Unwind with the family at Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park & Resort or the expERIEnce Children's Museum. Looking for some adult time? Try your luck at Presque Isle Downs Casino or sip, savor and sample from the Lake Erie Ale Trail or Lake Erie Wine Country. Experience AWEsome!

Learn more at VisitErie.com.



Splash Lagoon in Erie, PA

More than 6 million people visit the *Grove City Premium Outlets* every year. The single-floor, open air outlet mall features over 120 stores and is just three hours from the Canadian border. Shops at the Outlets include Calvin Klein, Coach, J. Crew Factory, Nautica, Polo Ralph Lauren & Tommy Hilfiger.

A short distance from the outlets, *Wendell August Forge* is a must-see area destination. Watch craftsmen at Wendell

August Forge as they hand forge works of art, one of a kind gift items and collectibles.

For some seasonal fun, celebrate the holidays at *Kraynak's* in Hermitage. From September through the week after Christmas, Kraynak's transforms into the home of Santa's Christmasland. Tour their 300-foot avenue of animated figures and seasonal decorations.

Marvel at the twinkling holiday lights, Christmas scenes and creatively decorated trees. Year-round, visitors will be amazed at the sprawling Toyland, as well as a flower shop, greenhouse, model trains and a candy department.

Learn more at VisitMercerCountyPA.com.





Downtown St. Joesph dressed for the holidays

Lighten up in Southwestern Michigan

Everything is merry & bright all winter long

here may be less daylight by Lake Michigan over the next few months, but the light still shines brightly in Southwest Michigan. One thousand glowing luminaries will light your way to downtown St. Joseph's 25th Annual Luminary Festival, November 22nd. One of the area's best shopping weekends, you'll find great buys and gift ideas in this Victorian-era city's quaint shops, galleries, restaurants, wineries and craft breweries. The region is home to some of Michigan's most talented artisans and you can shop for the perfect gift throughout Southwest Michigan on Small Business Saturday Nov. 30th.

St. Joseph's *Merry & Bright Weekend*, Dec. 6-7, begins with the ceremonial *Light Up the Bluff*, Friday at 6 p.m. With a flick of a switch, one million lights transform the park overlooking Lake Michigan into a winter wonderland. Blocks of glimmering displays make this a favorite stroll every evening through February 14, 2020.

Following the lighting ceremony, visitors can wander through downtown to see the delightful *Window Wonderland* displays in dozens of storefronts.

Inside, you will find gifts for everyone on your list. You'll want to stay on for the annual *Reindog Parade* and the arrival of



The Magical Ice Fest

Santa at 4 p.m. on December 7th. If you have a dog, join the parade and stop at *FuzzyButz Pet Bakery* for treats and gifts for your pup. In Southwest Michigan, you will find lots of pet-welcoming lodgings, stores and attractions, all up and down the coast!

Need a cure for cabin fever after the holidays? In January 2020, take part in the *Winter Beer Fest* or *Chili Tour* in St. Joseph. Bring the family for a winter break weekend in early February and watch ice carvers fashion crystal-like sculptures during the *Magical Ice Fest*. Or, make the best of that extra day next year by joining in the *Winter Delights Festival* at the Mendel Center on Leap Day.

Mother Nature works some magic of her own in November, when Lake Michigan

BY RENU SAGGAR

roars to life, drawing crowds of wetsuit surfers. Combined with cooler temperatures, the winds and high waves sculpt St. Joseph's lighthouses and catwalk into magnificent ice sculptures. You really have to see them to believe them, and your friends and family will be awed by the photos.

It's also a great time of year to visit some of the award-winning craft wineries, breweries and distilleries along Southwest Michigan's *Makers Trail*. Enjoy your choices with pairings of savory cheeses, smoky grilled meats, crisp vegetables and hand-dipped, creamy chocolates. While you're here, pick up a *Makers Trail Passport*. The more places you visit between now and April 30, 2020, the more cool prizes you can earn.

Or make *Creative Connections* with some of the area's 19 art galleries, museums and theaters. Explore a community transformed by the arts and indulge in local farm-to-table favorites. Pick up a Creative Connections map and play the *Creative Pursuit Game*. The more artsy things you do here, the more prizes you can get.

Completing both the Makers Trail Passport or Creative Pursuit game qualifies you to enter Grand Prize drawings for an allinclusive Southwest Michigan weekend stay. Makers Trail Passports are available at any of the wineries, breweries, distilleries and hotels listed on Makers Trail.org. Or, pick up your Creative Connections map at any of the participating galleries, museums, theaters or hotels shown on swmichigan.org/creative-pursuit. The passport and map are also available at the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council Information Center.

But don't spend all of your time indoors while you are here. Outside winter temperatures are rarely uncomfortable, so you can spend hours outdoors. Follow your passion for downhill or cross-country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and ice skating. Ride fat-tire bikes down glistening trails. Or make snow angels and snow sculptures in the dunes, or on the beaches.

Lighten up your winter in Southwest Michigan. Start planning your visit at swmichigan.org.



*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 ChoiceHotels.com/Michigan or call 1-888-228-5050. 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. @2019 Choice Hotels International. All rights reserved.



It's some kind of Wonderful

hether you're hitting the slopes, making a quick shopping trip, or planning a romantic weekend getaway, Michigan can package the perfect gift this fall, winter and holiday season.

Ann Arbor

It's that most wonderful time of year and there's no better way to enjoy the holiday season than with a hearty helping of local Ann Arbor festivities. From holiday entertainment to night markets and specialty shopping, these limited-time events offer a little something for everyone.

When it comes to this year's holiday shopping list, get started on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, November 29 & 30. Many unique, independent and local shops will offer extended holiday hours, so be sure to take advantage of these special seasonal perks.

Keep the shopping momentum moving December 6th at the annual *Midnight Madness* event from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It's party time in the Main Street area! Stores

stay open late with lots of holiday specials. While you shop, enjoy the sidewalk entertainment and say hello to Santa Claus and Miss Washtenaw County, who will be roaming the sidewalks!

BY RENU SAGGAR

Also on December, 6th, the Kerrytown District KindleFest (Christkindlmarkt) at the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market, offers a number of specialty wares and Germaninspired food, including mulled wine, pretzels, bratwurst and more. The area's German traditions, heritage and culture fuel this beloved annual Ann Arbor event, which runs from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Music lovers will not want to miss Handel's Messiah, December 7-8 at Hill Auditorium. Nearly 300 years after it was composed, Handel's Messiah still evokes joy and fills audiences with emotion.

Manchester's *Christmas in the Village*, December 7th, includes everything from decorating contests, craft shows and home tours, to pop-up markets, scavenger hunts and visits with Santa.

Check out the *DIYpsi Holiday Market* December 14 & 15 at the Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti. Peruse gift ideas from over 80 artisans and vendors. From housewares to hand made clothing and specialty foods, DIYpsi market is the perfect place to find unique, handcrafted items for everyone on your list.

Who says the holidays are over once January rolls around? Ann Arbor's 2020 Restaurant Week runs from January 12 to 17. Many of your favorite local restaurants will offer incredible prix fixe menus or exclusive 2-for-1 meal deals. Be sure to reserve your spot ahead of time with the



restaurant of your choice! Participating restaurants include Agave Tequila, Blue Nile, Conor O'Neill's Traditional Irish Pub, Miki Japanese Restaurant, Weber's Restaurant and Zingerman's Roadhouse.

Weekenders will find accommodations with all kinds of amenities, for all types of budgets. Choose from cozy Bed & Breakfasts, to ultra modern hotels with state-of-the-art guestrooms, services and amenities.

To learn more about Ann Arbor go to visitannarbor.org.

The River Crab Restaurant & Blue Water Inn

No matter what time of year you visit the beauty of the St. Clair River is on display at the picturesque River Crab Restaurant & Blue Water Inn. It's a perfect destination for a relaxing meal, or restful getaway. With magnificent views of the river and unmatched amenities, the Blue Water Inn is ready to become your home away from home.

The 21 newly-renovated rooms offer expansive views of the river. Every one is beautifully furnished, and amenities include in-room coffee makers, complimentary Wi-Fi, cable television, plush

robes, continental breakfast and a seasonal outdoor pool.

Experience dining right on the water's edge at *The River Crab* seafood restaurant. In the summer, patrons can dock their boats at the restaurant, or at the St. Clair Boat Harbor and climb aboard their complementary shuttle.

The River Crab is operated by Landry's, a leader in the casual seafood restaurant category. The menu is full of fresh seafood, tender steaks and pastas, and with so many choices it won't be an easy decision.

An unforgettable evening overlooking the river begins with a crisp Martha's Vineyard salad, or a bowl of New England Clam Chowder and ends with their succulent desserts. Entrees include Snapper Hemmingway and Planked Salmon. Come early and join them for Happy Hour with discounted drinks and appetizers.

If spur of the moment decisions aren't your style, you can easily make a reservation online. No matter how you arrive, the end result is the same—fresh seafood and unmatched views in a casual, fine dining atmosphere.

They can also accommodate private gathering of up to 120 guests, working with your style and budget. In addition

to providing the perfect location. The River Crab can host your Christmas party, New Year's celebration, or an intimate Valentine's Day dinner.

From "she said yes" to "I do," they will be happy to work with you for your engagement party, bridal showers, rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions. The memorable location offers an ideal venue for a gorgeous wedding ceremony against a peaceful flowing backdrop of water.

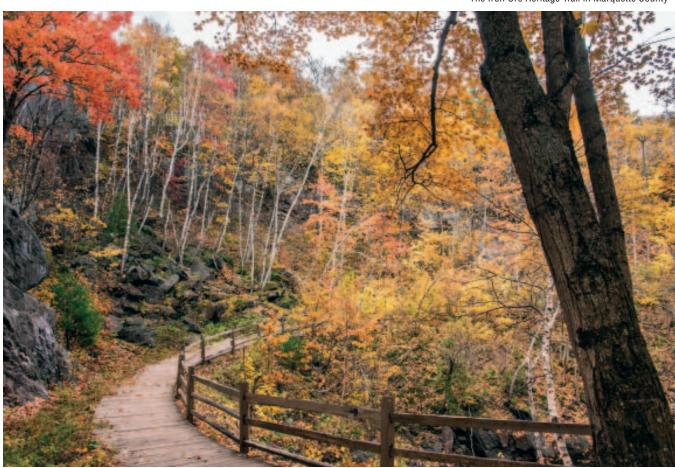
Please visit their website at www.rivercrabbluewaterinn.com for more information and any special promotions they may be offering.

Choice Hotels Michigan

When you're ready to book the perfect Michigan getaway, finding comfortable and affordable accommodations near all the best destinations is one of your first priorities. With over 100 Choice Hotels in Michigan to choose from, Choice Hotels can be the perfect place to create the vacation of your dreams. Brands include Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn, Clarion & the one-of-a-kind, upscale Ascend hotels, combining the amenities of a luxury resort, with the intimacy of a bed and breakfast.

Choice Hotels has locations in Lansing,

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail in Marquette County



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Quality Inn properties have free Q Value amenities like high-speed Internet, local calls and 24-hour coffee and tea in the lobby. Start your morning with a hot, fresh and healthy Q Breakfast.

Join *Choice Privileges* and get more from each stay with exclusive member rates, points for free nights, gift cards and more. Earn extra rewards on your very first stay. Choice Privileges was voted the "Best Hotel Loyalty Program" by USA TODAY for the second year in a row.

Book early at ChoiceHotels.com/Michiganhotels to fit any budget with great savings.

Flint & Genesee County

Flint & Genesee County is filled with interesting spaces and places. Discover something new and different, come together with family and friends, or recon-

nect with the past this fall and winter.

Families can spend some quality time together at the *Flint Children's Museum*. Children and adults alike can satisfy their curiosity through immersive hands-on experiences. The museum features exhibits that encourage imaginative play like a small stage equipped with costumes, and a play store complete with shopping carts and cash register. There's a climbing wall, a music room and even a toddler playroom perfect for little hands.

Looking for indoor adventure? The OHL *Flint Firebirds* hockey team turns up the heat when the temperature drops. Known as the premiere development league for the NHL, the action on ice is fast and furious.

Burn some calories and get fit bouncing around *Planet 3 Extreme Air Park*, an indoor trampoline park, just minutes away from Genesee Valley Center.

One of mid-Michigan's favorite holiday family traditions, *Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad*, features a turn-of-the-century Christmas where you can stroll through historic buildings and experience Christmas magic of yore. With more than 34 historic structures, visitors experience first-hand what life was like

in a small village in Michigan in the late 1800's. The Huckleberry Railroad is decked out for the holidays to take visitors on a festive nighttime ride.

In nearby Holly, you can also visit the Dickens Festival, a celebration of Victorian Christmas traditions. The *Holly Dickens Festival* is open weekends throughout late-November through December.

For more information or help planning your trip, visit the Flint & Genesee Convention and Visitors Bureau at flintandgensee.com/cvb.

Lansing

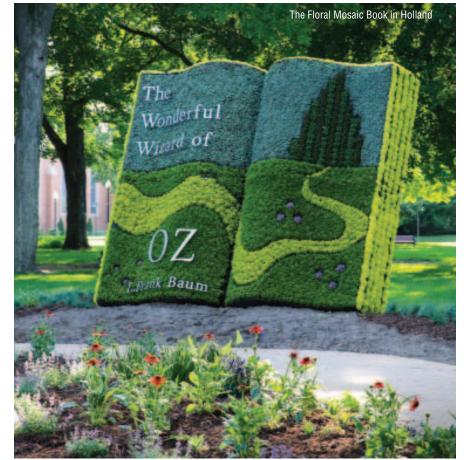
Discover the capital region of Greater Lansing. Located in the heart of Michigan, it's just a short, easy drive. No matter the weather, Greater Lansing offers a perfect, quick getaway with the kids without spending a fortune, or spending a long time in the car.

Family favorites include downtown Lansing's Impression 5 Science Center, filled with exhibits to play, explore and challenge your inner science geek no matter what your age. If the need for speed and high energy action is in your family's vocabulary, places like Launch Lansing trampoline park and High Caliber Karting and Entertainment are great options. Even adults will enjoy the European racing karts, video arcades, laser tag, racing simulators and axe throwing. Both High Caliber and Launch Lansing are located at the Meridian Mall in the neighboring community of Okemos.

The Lansing region prides itself on being a welcoming community for those who may have a family member with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and strives to provide the best possible experience for all guests. A number of local attractions like Impression 5, Potter Park Zoo, Abrams Planetarium, MSU Museum and local movie theatres have dedicated hours and events for neurodiverse visitors. Wharton Center for Performing Arts has dedicated live performances that are sensory friendly, allowing for patrons to stand up and walk around, with quieter sounds, adjusted lighting and more. In 2020, the Wharton Centre presents Parsons Dance, Dogman the Musical and Miss Nelson Has A Field Day, all with performances designated as sensory friendly.

Consider Greater Lansing for your next family weekend getaway. With big city amenities and small town charm, let the heart of Michigan be the backdrop for memories to last a lifetime.

Make it a Michigan capital getaway! For everything you need to know visit lansing.org.



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ARBOR

Michigan

Holland

Paying homage to Frank Baum's classic tale, Holland welcomed six bronze statues this summer – Dorothy and Toto, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, a 1000 pound Cowardly Lion, a Munchkin, and a 12½ foot Fighting Tree with a Flying Monkey hanging off a branch. There's also a 10 foot by 12 foot living floral mosaic book. They are placed along an iconic yellow brick road in both Centennial Park and the grounds of the Herrick District Library.

The statues were all sculpted from the original renderings created by W.W. Denslow, illustrator of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz and cast using the lostwax bronze casting process. They were designed to invite people of all ages to interact with them, just as Dorothy did during her journey to see the Wizard.

Gardeners and horticulturists will certainly appreciate the living floral mosaic book, which is covered with 6000 living plants depicting the cover of Baum's classic book. The book was manufactured in Quebec, Canada by Kadriform Interna-

tional, who specializes in the creation of steel structures for mosaiculture (living mosaics.)

In the words of L. Frank Baum, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was written solely to pleasure the children of today. It aspires to being a modernized fairy tale, in which the wonderment and joy are retained and heartaches and nightmares are left out."

The outdoor exhibit is just four short blocks from award-winning downtown Holland, and is permanent and free. The Living Book, however, will be safely stored inside a greenhouse during the winter months and returned to the park in the spring.

Holland's beautiful downtown comes alive with festive holiday decor and a multitude of exciting holiday events from November through January. Historic downtown Holland provides the perfect backdrop for *Dutch Winterfest*, which kicks off with a *Holiday Open House* November 16, complete with strolling carolers and roasting chestnuts.

The fun continues with seasonal shopping deals, photo opportunities with Santa Claus and even a petting corral

with live reindeer! Enjoy the creatively lit floats in the *Parade of Lights*, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Visit with Sinterklaas, the Dutch St. Nicholas and his mischievous Zwarte Piet helper. Stroll through the "Kerstmarkt," a European open-air Christmas market, which runs between November 23rd to December 14th.

There are holiday theatre and musical performances, a greens sale, home tour, Victorian Christmas teas, special exhibits, and even an annual tree-lighting ceremony! Holland's warmed cobblestone sidewalks, unique shops and galleries, specialty import shops and open-air market provide one-of-a-kind holiday shopping throughout the festival.

For more information, contact the Holland Area Visitors Bureau at www.holland.org or www.hollandozproject.com.

Grand Haven

Spend your winter holiday on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, in the outdoor capital of Grand Haven.

Pigeon Creek Park is a haven for cross country skiing, sledding and snowshoeing down trails that wind over 10 miles through bottomland forests along the river. Discover Mulligan's Hollow, a hid-



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Michigan

den gem where downhill skiing and snowboarding are available as soon as the first layer of fresh snow hits the ground. This family friendly destination offers eight downhill runs, tow ropes and lighted paths.

Head downtown and explore dozens of specialty shops, boutiques and galleries that are sure to have one of a kind finds. Afterwards, grab dinner and drinks at one of many local restaurants, breweries or wine tasting rooms. Grand Haven sidewalks and streets have a special snowmelt system to ensure a safe and comfortable walk around town. The Grand Haven Area is the perfect place to be when those temperatures start to drop.

For more information go to visitgrandhaven.com

Zehnder's of Frankenmuth

Zehnder's of Frankenmuth is a fourseason family resort that includes Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel & Waterpark, Zehnder's Restaurant, Retail Marketplace and 18-hole Fortress Golf Course. Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel and Waterpark is the only waterpark in the Midwest that offers two distinct family waterparks with retractable roofs. Families can enjoy over 50,000 square feet of aquatic fun along with a six-story family raft ride, or super loop body slide, lazy river, zero-entry activity pool and a 400-gallon dumping bucket.

Spend the night in one of their 178 deluxe guestrooms including 74 suites accommodating 4 to 8 guests and 22 rooms with panoramic views of the waterpark. Enjoy dining in the Mushroom Grille or Elf Hollow Café and don't forget to visit the 2,500 square foot arcade.

America's largest family restaurant, Zehnder's of Frankenmuth is the heart of Midwestern hospitality. Nine dining rooms can seat more than 1,500 guests. Zehnder's offers a full-service menu that features all-you-can-eat family style chicken dinners, seafood, steaks, fresh baked goods and European desserts. And don't forget to visit Zehnder's Marketplace, in the lower level of Zehnder's Restaurant. It's a showcase of specialty foods, gift items and fresh baked breads, pastries and sweet treats. Choose from Zehnder's proprietary line of seasonings, preserves,

cheeses, noodles and wines, to a wide selection of unique accessories and culinary wares. Zehnder's of Frankenmuth also hosts many events and activities throughout the year.

Visit zehnders.com for more information or to make reservations. They look forward to welcoming you on your next visit.

Marquette County

Set on the shores of Lake Superior, Marquette, Michigan is a community where nature's assets are on full display with scenic vistas, rugged trails and rushing waterfalls. Visitors will find unique dining experiences, award-winning craft breweries and a thriving arts scene. Marquette embraces a culture anchored in artisanship and ingenuity.

Marquette County offers some of the best opportunities to witness fall foliage in the country, with fall color usually peaking in early October. Favorite leaf peeping spots include Presque Isle Park, Sugarloaf Mountain and the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

For the adventure seekers, a trip to Marquette is nothing without waterfalls. Marquette County is home to 77 waterfalls, with many dropping more than





As fragile as glass is the fleeting light of fall and winter in Michigan. Watch it play amongst the glistening displays of the new glass gallery or in the Hot Shop at the Flint Institute of Arts. See how the same light filters through the trees on a nature walk at For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum. Experience the twinkling magic on a holiday train ride at Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad.

Explore what glows - indoors and outdoors - in Flint & Genesee.



Michigan

20 feet! A few of the most beautiful and popular include Morgan Falls, Dead River Falls and Yellow Dog Falls.

In addition to breathtaking views, winter offers exciting events. Launch into winter at the annual *Suicide Ski Hill Ski Jumping Tournament*, January 21. See ski jumpers defy gravity as they soar off of the historic 90 meter Suicide Hill.

The Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) has a slew of maintained snow-packed trails for Nordic skiing, with ski and snowshoe rentals available at Forestville Trailhead.

With over 60 miles of freshly groomed, snow-packed singletrack trails, Marquette County is known as the fat biking Mecca of the Midwest. The *Noquemanon Ski Marathon* takes place January 24-26 and whether you XC ski, snow bike, snowshoe or skijor, it's going to be an epic event.

If the mountains are calling you, Marquette Mountain offers downhill skiing, is an activity that has a long history in the region. Since 1954, Ishpeming has been home to the U.S. National Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, an honor that

is embraced by the skiing community.

When the day is done there are plenty of restaurants and breweries and fireplaces to warm up to.

For more information and to plan your trip, please visit www.TravelMarquette.com.

Coldwater Country

Make memories while you discover the must-see and do adventures in the quaint communities of Coldwater, Bronson, Quincy, and Union City. Conveniently located in south-central Michigan along the US-12 Heritage Trail, halfway between Detroit and Chicago, Coldwater Country has many adventures waiting to be explored.

A haven for relaxation, visitors can escape to one of the more than 100 freshwater lakes, including two chains of lakes. Rent a pontoon or kayak and spend an afternoon taking in the fall colors. Anglers will find a hot spot for reeling in the catch of the day. Bluegill, perch, pike, and walleye are among the most common varieties.

The beautiful architecture of the *Tib-bits Opera House* makes it a treat to visit year-round, but the historic theatre really shines during holidays. A Trans-Siberian Orchestra tribute by Siberian Solstice,

literally lights up the Tibbits stage Saturday, December 21 at 7 p.m. The light show and video presentation transports a vocal and musical performance of "The Angel's Gift" into an inspiring evening.

Take your holiday shopping on the road. Shop 'til you drop at the many unique boutiques and shops throughout the area. Treasure the local antiques, enjoy homemade baked goods, one-of-a-kind accents and jewelry. Coldwater Country is also home to Allen, Michigan's Antique Capital, with the largest concentration of antique dealers in the Midwest. The area is home to five stately antique malls including the Allen Antique Barn, boasting two floors and more than 25,000 square feet of timeless treasures.

As the weather cools and the snow falls, the area's lakes offer anglers the opportunity to ice fish. Get outside and breathe in the cold, clean air while watching for that bobber go under water, with a fish on the hook.

Plan a winter getaway to Coldwater Country to celebrate the snowy season. The last Saturday in January, Coldwater welcomes the annual *Ice Festival*. Ice carvers will dazzle you, as they turn giant blocks of ice into meltable masterpieces. Themed ice sculptures, live ice carving demonstrations, a soup cook-off, hot cocoa, live music and a pub crawl makes this a fun event.

In February, Coldwater Country's village of Quincy welcomes family fun with ice fishing tournaments, snowmobile and quad races, polar bear plunge, wood cutting contests, a craft show, a cornhole tournament and more are all part of the *Quincy Tip-Up Festival*.

Need an incentive to drop a line this winter? Try it as part of the *Free Fishing Weekend*, February 15-16, 2020. This annual weekend provides two days where no fishing license is required for residents or non-residents, although all fishing regulations still apply.

After a day on the lake, enjoy some down time and savor the fresh flavors and hospitality at one of Coldwater Country's locally owned diners, restaurants or pubs.

At the end of a fun-filled day and exciting night on the town, check into one of the many hotels to rest and relax. Stay today and do it again tomorrow and bring the memories back home.

So, whether you're looking for a fun fall getaway, a holiday retreat, or an ice fishing adventure and winter festival, look to Coldwater Country. Coldwater Country.com.







The Traverse City area offers a diverse selection of hiking trails

Fall into Traverse City

t the start of the season the vineyards are lush with ripe fruit. Mid-season is harvest, and just before winter, many of the tasting rooms create a cozy vibe that is just right for a romantic afternoon. Try the wines in the recommended tasting order and always remember to designate a driver.

Coast Along the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive — No visit to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore would be complete without a leisurely drive through this section of the park. At 7.4 miles long, it's not a long route. At stop #2 you'll be greeted by the iconic Covered Bridge and at #9 you might just be swept away in the endless blues of Lake Michigan.

Pick a Pumpkin — Yeah, yeah, it's cliché, but how can you go through autumn without running through a pumpkin patch? The kids will love it and the memories of finding just the right one will last forever.

Try a New Beer —Fall color and beer, they seem to naturally go together. Ambers, golden IPA's and stouts they're all on the menu during Traverse City Beer Week (Nov. 8-15). If you can't make it during TCBW, don't worry, a beer tour

can be done at your own pace anytime of the year.

Go for a Hike — Whether you have an hour, or a whole day, you will find plenty of natural spaces to get moving on the trails. Sleeping Bear Dunes is a go-to park

The Covered Bridge on Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive

BY **RENU SAGGAR**

for visitors, but there's also a diverse selection of trails located within the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and the Leelanau Conservancy.

Fill Your Basket at a Farm Market — Browse the aisles and be delighted by the vibrant reds and oranges of ripe tomatoes, the sweet smell of apples and the golden stalks of sunflowers. Fill up a bag of produce and snack your way through the rest of the day or bring home local honey for a long-lasting sweet memory of your visit.

Sip Some Cider — You've heard about Traverse City's wine and beer, but do you know about cider? On tap, in a growler and even in a six pack of cans, cider is now available at many of the local wineries. And if you're not into the hard stuff, there's always sweet cider (and donuts!).

Delightful Dining — Traverse City's eclectic area restaurants will never fail to satisfy your inner-foodie. The Boathouse Restaurant offers exclusive sunset dining on Bowers Harbor 9-miles out on Old Mission Peninsula. Casually elegant, there are fabulous views from the deck and the window-lined dining room. The menu features seafood, Kobe beef, lamb, vegetarian fare and an extensive Wine Spectator award-winning wine list.



Park Place Hotel

The elegant downtown Park Place Hotel, is the only hotel and conference facility located in the heart of downtown Traverse City. It's just steps from downtown shops and restaurants, or an easy stroll to the bay and beach.

The gracious accommodations, memorable views, thoughtful amenities and comprehensive services make this a very special place.

The newly-renovated Tower and West Wing rooms blend modern design and amenities with a historic location. Each of the tastefully decorated rooms and suites are meticulously appointed with exceptionally comfortable beds, a contemporary design and premium amenities. A new indoor pool facility, includes a whirlpool, splash pad and fitness room.

They offer lovely views of Boardman Lake and Grand Traverse Bay. Amenities at the pet friendly property include complimentary parking, hair dryers, coffee makers, microwaves and refrigerators in all rooms. There's complimentary highspeed Wi-Fi in all guest rooms, meeting rooms and public areas.

The Park Place Hotel also boasts a brand new state-of-the-art Conference Center.



It's a classically modern facility, customized to accommodate a variety of groups. Over 12,000 square feet of meeting and convention space is available for groups of 10 to 500.

Minervas Restaurant & Bar on the lobby level, offers an upscale but comfortable atmosphere, and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a full menu of steaks, chops, pasta, seafood and more. Minervas also features Happy Hour food and drink specials.

The Beacon Lounge on the 10th floor, provides a very memorable setting overlooking Traverse City and Grand Traverse Bay. The "Top of the Park" serves a full range of appetizers, their famous flatbread pizzas and desserts. Sip a cocktail and watch the sunset over the bay.

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Chilling Out in Ohio

hio's sheer diversity makes it ideal for a leisurely fall or winter weekend getaway. Timeless towns offer winter sports, cultural events, indoor activities and Christmas villages.

Hocking Hills

Meet the soft side of the Hocking Hills. The typically rugged beauty of the Hocking Hills is draped in velvety, white serenity each winter. Prehistoric cave walls are covered with ice beards, waterfalls freeze in suspended animation. The winter sun dances on the snow-covered pines and forest floor.

Mother Nature's spectacular autumn colors quietly give way to crisp mornings, birds in leaf-bare trees and smoke from chimneys indicating a cozy fireplace in use. It is as if she has just exhaled and the busy pace of summer and fall color season is a sweet memory. She is about to deliver the sweetest of all, the soft season of winter in the Hocking Hills.

Hiking by day and stargazing by night is a nature lover's way to enjoy the season. The new Visitor Center at Old Man's Cave is a great place to begin. There are interac-

tive exhibits, trail information and tips to make the hike exhilarating and safe.

Being prepared is important for enjoyable winter hiking. Proper footwear for trail conditions is essential and trekking

Old Man's Cave

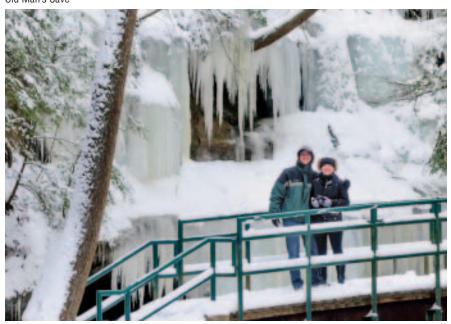
poles and ice cleats are good to have. Toss an extra pair of dry socks in the backpack along with water and a snack.

Hike the six-mile Grandma Gatewood Trail at the *Annual Hocking Hills Winter Hike* on January 18, 2020. The hike has continuous starts from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Old Man's Cave. The trail traverses sandstone caves, waterfalls and deep gorges on the way to Cedar Falls. Once hikers arrive at Cedar Falls they are met with the Logan Kiwanis Club's famous bean soup and corn bread muffins and a roaring fire for a little warm up before completing the trek to Ash Cave.

A nice way to round out a full day of fun is to relax in one of more than eight hundred cabins and lodges. The Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls nestled near Hocking Hills State Park, is the perfect retreat in the heart of nature. Indulge in a delicious meal at Kindred Spirits, their on-site restaurant, or treat yourself to a pampering treatment at the full-service spa. Accommodations range from cabins and yurts, to cottages and guest rooms. Their spacious, newly built Hocking Hills Lodges can accommodate from 10 to 24 guests and feature hot tubs, fire pits, gourmet kitchens, game rooms, outdoor grills and wrap-around porches.

Historic downtown Logan is Hocking Hills' hometown. See Main Street lined with more than twenty-five ice sculptures during the *Annual Logan Frozen Festival* January 18th. Stroll down historic Main Street and enjoy live entertainment, ice games, local eateries and food trucks.

Stop by the Hocking Hills Regional





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Chill Out Ohio

Welcome Center and visit the *Paul A. Johnson Pencil Sharpener Museum*. This amazing collection of more than 3,400 pencil sharpeners is reputed to be the largest in America.

The region is also known for authentic home cooking. The *6th Annual Comfort Food Cruise* celebrates these traditional dishes when more than a dozen locally owned restaurants serve up their comforting specialties. The self-guided tour takes place January 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26, 2020. Indulge in classics like Mac & Cheese, chicken and noodles. *Chelle's 33 Diner* is a retro style diner serving classic American favorites. Try the Farmboy breakfast, biscuits and gravy or a burger and hand cut fries. Come for the nostalgia, but stay for the food.

Millstone BBQ is famous for Southern BBQ smoked on site for 15 to 17 hours. Guests will notice a pink hue inside called the smoke ring. This unique trait is indicative of the moist, tender BBQ meat that virtually melts in your mouth.

Rockmill Brewery is a small production brewery housed on a former horse farm near Lancaster, Ohio. Their beers are modeled after the brews of Wallonia, Belgium. Saison Farmhouse Ale is rustic, earthy, with complex spice notes in the aroma. Rockmill's Cask Aged Noir, is a barrel-aged farmhouse ale that tastes like earthy molasses and vanilla-tinged sugar cane. Make yourself at home in Rockmill Brewery's spacious farmhouse tasting room. In good weather, sit outside on the dog-friendly patio and enjoy your beer with panoramic views of the farm.

For a view from above fly the sky trails of *Hocking Hills Scenic Air Tours*. See the wonder of the region's natural beauty and geological footprints preserved from antiquity. The veteran pilot/

guide will point out all the places of special interest.

The *John Glenn Astronomy Park* offers a view from their enormous 28-inch telescope in the roll-off roof observatory. The park is open every day and night. Everyone is welcome to bring telescopes and enjoy one of Ohio's darkest night skies.

Brian and Eric St. Clair started *Hocking Hills Moonshine* distillery in 2015. They decided to turn back the clock to the prohibition era and produce corn liquor just like the old time bootleggers. The St. Clair's produce a smooth tasting shine that is surprisingly drinkable, so pass me that jar.

The *Lake Hope Lodge* offers casual dining at its finest in a memorable setting overlooking Lake Hope. Everything is made from scratch utilizing as many locally sourced products as possible. Enjoy the intense flavors of their all-hickory smoked real pit BBQ, smoked brisket and pulled pork. Try the wood fired pizza, hand cut steaks and burgers made from fresh beef ground in-house daily.

Celebrate Valentine's Day by whisking your sweetie away for a romantic interlude complete with in-cabin spa treatments and steaming hot tub under a canopy of stars.

Take your significant other on the 2020 Sweethearts Hike to Ash Cave on February 8th. The hike begins at 5 p.m. Meet the Naturalist at the parking lot for a guided short stroll into the largest recessed cave east of the Mississippi River. The Ash Cave trail is handicap accessible and a short, level walk so take your time and enjoy the scenery. Once you're there warm up with hot chocolate and sweets.

Don't miss the soft side of the Hocking Hills. Find your serene story this winter at ExploreHockingHills.com



Taste Wayne Count

Enjoy the beautifully decorated shops of Wayne County this holiday season. Watch Santa arrive in Downtown Wooster on November 22, and you may see him again in Orrville on November 29 for their Home for the Holidays. The Dalton Holidays Festival is December 7-8.































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Chill Out Ohio

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Wayne County

Looking to spend some time relaxing in Amish Country? How about a peaceful afternoon under the shade of a tree, sipping a glass of locally made wine, enjoying Amish made cheese and listening to the clip-clop of buggies? We thought that sounded pretty good too.

Aristotle called wine "light in a bottle," and here is a list of local Wayne County Wineries & Vineyards offering tours, tastings and seasonal inside and outside seating: *Bent Ladder Cider&Wine,* Doylestown, Ohio (bentladder.com). Cider and Wine? I knew that would get your attention. Situated on the grounds of the Rittman Orchards they specialize in hand-crafted hard ciders.

Blue Barn Winery, Wooster, Ohio (blue-barnwinery.com). Located in a restored historic 19th century barn on a beautiful horse farm. Sit along the banks of the artesian-fed trout pond. Visit them online for special events.

Lincoln Way Vineyards, Wooster, Ohio (lincolnwayvineyards.com). The newest addition to the Wayne County winery family is located along the historic Lincoln Highway. No fancy wine names, just pick the time that is right for you.

Silver Run Vineyard & Winery, Doylestown, Ohio (silverrunwinery. com). A family-owned boutique winery located in historic Doylestown in the northeast portion of Wayne County. You are welcome to cozy up next to the indoor fireplace or enjoy views from their covered back porch.

Troutman Vineyards & Winery, Wooster, Ohio (troutmanvineyards.com). Troutman's invite you to taste their home-grown wine in the shade of their backyard, or to sit by the fireplace in the gathering room.

Downtown Wooster transforms into a winter wonderland on November 22nd from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Merchants compete to have the best decorated windows and a stroll through downtown with the twinkling lights and holiday activities is truly magical. Horse drawn carriage rides, beautifully decorated storefront windows, Santa descending from the rooftop, free hot chocolate, live reindeer and lots of food & drink specials at Downtown Wooster stores & restaurants are all what make *Window Wonderland* a treasured event.

On November 23rd *Christmas in the Villages* opens at the Pine Tree Barn, an historic 1868 landmark barn and 200-



acre Christmas tree farm located just south of Wooster. You will find beautiful gifts, home furnishings, a year around Christmas shop and a gourmet luncheon restaurant. For a complete listing of events please visit their website.

A number of local shops feature authentic Amish products from food to fine wood furniture to quilts. Visit their small towns and villages for that special holiday experience.

Thinking of spending the night? Visit them online at wccvb.com and they will be glad to make suggestions of great accommodations including hotels, bed and breakfasts, cabins and campgrounds.

Armstrong Museum

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of man's first steps on the moon. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong stepped out of the lunar module and set foot on the lunar surface. Three years later the *Armstrong Air & Space Museum* opened in Wapakoneta, Neil Armstrong's hometown. The museum takes visitors on a journey through aerospace history. There you can explore Armstrong's story and other Ohioan's achievements in the history of flight. The museum itself is designed to resemble a futuristic moon base and contains many

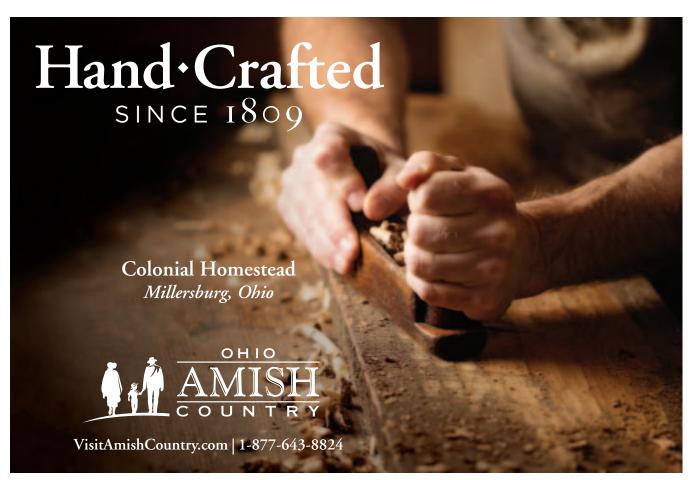
authentic artifacts, including the Gemini VIII spacecraft, Neil Armstrong's Gemini and Apollo spacesuits and a lunar sample — the NASA term for a moon rock. The museum is also home to two full-size aircraft, including the *Aeronca Champion*, the very airplane in which Neil Armstrong learned to fly.

Enjoy interactive exhibits and simulators. Visitors can practice landing the

Ohio Station Outlets' Santa Express Train

lunar module and space shuttle, experience simulated zero gravity or dock the Gemini capsule, just as Armstrong did in 1966. The 56-foot dome in the center of the museum houses the *Astro Theater*, where guests can cam shoot for the stars and watch an informative movie. Simulators and the film are included with your admission to the Armstrong Air & Space Museum. *Visit armstrongmuseum.org for more information*.





Chill Out Ohio

Medina County

Medina County is a great location to visit during the holiday season. With many unique shops and outlets, you can find gifts for everyone in your family for the holidays. Shopping in Medina County's small towns, whether you are window shopping or finding decorative ideas and gifts, will make your visit a unique experience.

Castle Noel is a one-of-a-kind holiday entertainment complex with window displays from NYC department stores. Stroll through the 'I Had That' Toyland Experience and find the toys you remember as a child. Feel what Santa feels when he drops down the chimney when you pass through the Santa Squeeze.

You will also enjoy the world's largest collection of Christmas movie props, set pieces and costumes from movies like Tim Allen's Santa Claus movies, The Grinch, Cousin Eddy's RV from Christmas Vacation. Slide down the slide, just like Ralphy's from *A Christmas Story* and many other movies.

On the lower level, meet the aliens at the freaky 3D, and black-light *Alien Va*-

cation Mini Golf. Open weekends all year with extended holiday hours.

Nearby *High Voltage Indoor Karting* features an electric go-kart track. *Scene 75* in Brunswick, offers mini-golf, karting, laser tag and arcade games. It's fun for the whole family!

Medina County also has many unique holiday events throughout the season like Christmas at the Ranch at Creek Bend Ranch and a Candy Cane Christmas at Spring Mist Farms just to name a few.

The Candlelight Walk, November 22-24 in Medina's Historic District, kicks off the holiday season with an old fashioned hometown celebration. It features over 2 miles of LED lights highlighting the traditional Victorian Square and buildings with over 1,500 luminaries and the lighting of the community Christmas Tree in the Gazebo. Take in the Parade of Lights running through the heart of town. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and enjoy live entertainment. Shop at over 30 specialty boutiques and dine in one of 15 local restaurants and bistros. Please visit their website for a full list of events. Located just 35 miles south of Cleveland and 24 miles west of Akron, for information on upcoming events, visitmedinacounty.com.

Ohio Station Outlets

Ohio Station Outlets is the first and only themed outlet center in the world. The architecture, history, entertainment and a hand-crafted vintage train ferrying shoppers throughout the center, combined with the hottest brands in outlet shopping, creates an experience you will definitely not want to miss.

Ohio Station Outlets features a lineup of nationally-known retail brands and established Ohio-based retailers to bring the perfect mix of national and local to the exurban market. Plan your trip to coincide with visits from Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the pumpkin patch in October. Additional family friendly events take place throughout the year.

Ohio Station merchants LOK Ceramics and Auntie Anne's Soft Pretzels have developed programs for groups to enjoy during their visits. At LOK Ceramics, you may choose from a large variety of ceramic statues and enjoy an unlimited supply of paints to create their art on site and take home with them the same day. At Auntie Anne's, you can learn how to twist pretzels and enjoy their creations with refreshments in the recently renovated Ohio Station Outlets food court. Contact LOK Ceramics and Auntie Anne's for registration details.

Jingle all the way around the Santa Express Train beginning Nov. 30th. Ride the train and meet Santa for Story Time and take your own photos!

Holmes County

The Amish lifestyle intrigues many outsiders. It is all about a simple, straightforward, honest way of life that puts family and faith first. It leaves an impression on visitors in ways that are unlike anywhere else.

Amish Country in Holmes County, Ohio, was made for making memories, whether for a family vacation or a longweekend reunion. Experiences range from feeding a giraffe, to buggy rides, to meeting an Amish family.

DIY fanatics are drawn to Amish Country for the wealth of inspiration for home decoration. Many Amish traditions incorporate handmade craftsmanship which has made the region a source for materials and ideas for your next home and garden project. Stores like Lehman's and Keim Lumber have complete resources for a home project and you can also get hard-to-find supplies like exotic woods or specialty tools.





Chill Out Ohio

Celebrate the real reason for the season at the nativity parade, candle lighting and caroling on the square in Berlin on November 29. Events begin at 5:45 p.m.

On January 25, 2020 take part in a maple syrup class held at Lehman's in Kidron, where Lehman's own Roger Myers will demonstrate how to create homemade maple syrup. Learn hands-on what it takes to have your own, naturally-made syrup at home! Roger will describe the best types of trees to tap, how to tap, equipment needed, cooking and cleaning. You'll learn the whole process!

Don't forget what Amish Country is best known for – the food. Broasted chicken, noodles, mashed potatoes and almost every kind of pie you can imagine. It's the kind of food loved by kids and grown ups alike. "More please" is a common phrase around there and seconds are always encouraged.

With so many unique things to see and do, complemented by the variety of welcoming accommodations, there are endless possibilities for your trip to Amish Country. After sampling the famous Amish pastries, stop by a local winery then end your night at an award-winning bed and breakfast. Wake up to another day of fun, you can hike, canoe or just relax and enjoy the gorgeous countryside.

Amish Country, Ohio, has something for all tastes. Learn more online at www. visitamishcountry.com.

Ashland

Ashland has been called the "World Headquarters of Nice People." Folks here embrace visitors like members of an extended family. Located 66 miles southwest of Cleveland, Ashland is where small-town charm, and rustic scenery, combine in one lovely package.

Small business Saturday, November 30th, offers an excellent opportunity to buy Christmas gifts! Find great deals on unique products and services, along with some special events. Take a walk through history in Antiques on Main's renovated historic building. They host 15 different dealers each specializing in various fields.

At Enjoy Gourmet Gifts you can find a wide range of gourmet foods, handmade jewelry, pottery, cupcakes and more.

Fig & Oak sells unique home goods, vintage items, re-purposed, handmade, or the latest in home decor.

Stop in for a craft beer and some tots

at Uniontown Brewing Co.

Share the warmth of the season with a musical gift for the entire family! On December 1, the Ashland Symphony hosts an evening of holiday favorites at Archer Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Beginning December 6th, tour celebrated author Louis Bromfield's *Big House* all decked out for the holidays at Malabar Farm State Park. Enjoy freshly baked cookies and hot cider, you may even see Santa Claus himself!

Take in Ashland's Miracle on Main Street December 7th then stick around for the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting at 6 p.m.

Ashland is very well-known for its green spaces with beautiful sites for hiking and more. Appreciate nature from the deep woods of Pine Hill Park, to the wildliferich marshes of the Esbenshade Wetlands. Enjoy a winter bird walk at Byers Woods December 28th at 9 a.m.

For more information go to visitashlandohio.com.

Bowling Green

Think BG, Ohio to shop, dine and stay! Visitors will be welcomed by a variety of special events, shopping and dining in the historic downtown, all decked out for the holidays!

Bowling Green was named one of Ohio's Best Hometowns for a reason. On November 23rd the *Polar Express Next Stop Bowling Green Parade* steps off downtown at 10 am. It's filled with floats, marching bands, groups, lots of candy and of course, Santa himself will be in BG to help them kick off the holiday season. On November 30th celebrate *Shop Small Saturday* with dozens of holiday shopping & dining specials. Downtown specialty boutiques offer everything from jewelry and fashions, to antiques and hand painted furniture.

Dine at locally owned neighborhood establishments that the locals love, or enjoy brew pubs and ethnic cuisine.

They will also host Santa and a Julie's Dance Studio Performance, all for free at the *Four Corners Center* at 130 S. Main St. from 11 to 1 p.m.

Located just off I-75, 25 miles south of Toledo, it's the perfect stopover for Canadian Snowbirds on their way to and from Florida, or other destinations. BG has variety of lodgings located right off the highway within minutes of shopping and dining. So think BG, Ohio to shop, dine and stay.

Visit their website at VisitBGOhio.com for information about the events, sites and where to stay during your visit #thinkbgoh.



Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort

ocated in the lowcountry of South Carolina, Fripp Island, is a serene barrier island and the perfect escape for those looking to get away from the cold, northern winter. With two championship golf courses and 3 1/2 miles of uncrowded, unspoiled beaches, Fripp Island Golf & Beach Resort offers a vacation and golf experience you'll always remember.

Named one of the "100 Best Golf Resorts in North America" by Links Magazine, Fripp Island

Beach & Golf Resort boasts two of the most spectacular golf courses in America. *Ocean Point*, designed by George Cobb, offers dramatic views of the Atlantic and the rare chance to play an authentic links-style course. This seaside masterpiece features beautifully manicured fairways and well-bunkered greens that place a premium on accurate iron play. Ocean breezes require careful club selection and both the front and back nine finish against a backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean.

Ocean Creek was golf great Davis Love III's first signature course. Four distinct rolling dune lines and ridges climb as high as 15 feet, as they corkscrew across the fairways, so you'll need to bring your "A" game.



Fripp Island boasts a spectacular lowcountry setting. Photo: Parker Shoaf

Even if you don't golf, there is plenty to do. With eight fast-dry and two hard courts, tennis and pickleball are year round sports at Fripp as well. The *Nature and Activity Center* is run by a knowledgeable staff, who can both entertain and educate you while exploring the island by bike, trail or kayak. As a Certified Wildlife Habitat and an Audubon Important Area, you'll find an abundance of wildlife here. In addition to the plentiful deer,

Fripp Island is home to over 100 species of birds.

Just a short drive down the road is Beaufort. Topping many top 10 travel lists, this historic town has a vibrant arts community. The narrow streets of the city's historic district are lined with centuries-old, moss-draped live oaks. Even closer is St. Helena, which is home to *The Penn Center* and a vibrant Gullah culture.

Offering comfortable, well-equipped vacation rentals from one to eight bedrooms, the resort can be your winter home away from home. Come experience all that Fripp Island Resort has to offer and you will fall in love with the hospitality and quiet splendor of the South Carolina low country.

Visit them online at frippislandresort.com.

Southern Hospitality at its finest. The weather's not bad either.







Fripp Isla

On South Carolina's most beautiful barrier island is a great family friendly spot for your summer vacation. With two championship golf courses, tennis, fishing, biking, swimming, Camp Fripp for kids, unspoiled beaches and more, Fripp Island will turn a weeklong vacation into memories that will last a lifetime.

855-256-1766 FrippIslandResort.com



Sleepless in Shanghai

journey to China is an enchanting odyssey through more than 5,000 years of history set against a vast natural canvas. There are world-class cities like Beijing and Shanghai, monumental wonders like the Great Wall and natural splendors like the Yangtze River.

Once known as the *Paris of the East*, Shanghai is China's largest and most cosmopolitan city. Tree-lined boulevards frame graceful buildings that are reminiscent of Europe in the 1920's. The area between the Wusong River and the "Old Town" is known as the Bund, home to a collection of pre-war Art Deco buildings, as well as a majestic waterfront promenade. The Bund Historical Museum preserves some fascinating artifacts from the time when the British, French and Americans all had "concessions" in the city.

Shanghai is a global financial technology, transport giant and home to some

25 million people, including more than 150,000 millionaires and a few dozen billionaires. Located in the Yangtze River

BY GAIL MERO-O'NEIL

Delta, it sits on the south edge of the estuary of the Yangtze in the middle portion of the Eastern China coast. With a maximum speed of 430 km/h (267 mph) the Shanghai Maglev train makes the 30 km journey between Longyang Road Station and Pudong International Airport in 7 minutes 20 seconds.

Often described as the "showpiece" of the booming Chinese economy Shanghai has grown at a furious pace and has almost as many skyscrapers as Manhattan. Many of the landmark buildings that form the city's distinctive skyline are located in Lujiazui, a narrow peninsula located on the eastern bank of Huangpu River. Take the ferry from the Bund and you can see these imposing towers from the water.

Notable buildings include the Shanghai World Financial Center, Super Brand Mall, Bank of China Tower and the Shanghai Tower, China's tallest building and second tallest in the world. The Oriental Pearl Tower is the city's crowning glory. With a design based on a verse of a Tang Dynasty poem, the 468 metre (1,535 feet) high tower features 11 spheres and fifteen observation levels. The highest is known as the Space Module.



One of the first five Chinese cities that opened to the outside world, Shanghai has long been a melting pot. An influx of Western influences in the 20th century has generated a unique "East Meets West" Haipai culture. A symbol of diversity and inclusiveness it embraces both orientalism and western traditions in fashion and the arts. Shanghai Disneyland for example, has become one of Walt Disney Resort's most successful ventures. Tian Zi Fang is where the new and old Shanghai meet. Modern restaurants and cafés line the traditional stone-paved alleys in the city's artsiest neighborhood.

The *Shanghai Museum* has one of the best collections of Chinese historical artifacts in the world, including a large collection of ancient Chinese bronzes. The *China Art Museum* is housed in a unique, upside down pavilion and showcases works by some of the most prominent modern Chinese artists.

Shanghai's signature cuisine includes Shengjian mantou, a small, pan-fried steamed bun made from leavened or semi-leavened dough, wrapped around pork and gelatin fillings, that melts into a soup when cooked.

Di Shui Dong sweet and sour spareribs

are one of Shanghai's best-known dishes. The fresh pork ribs are traditionally deep fried then coated in a delicious sweet and sour sauce. Shanghai hairy crab is usually steamed with fragrant ginger, and consumed with a dipping sauce of rice vinegar, sugar and ginger.

The Jade Buddha Temple offers a tranquil respite from the city's frenetic pace. One of China's few active Zen Buddhist monasteries, the temple's main attractions are the two white jade Buddhas.

Shanghai's expansive public parks are popular attractions due to their unique location, history or architecture. *People's Square Park* is located in the heart of downtown. *Fuxing Park*, in the Former French Concession, features formal French-style gardens. During the afternoon people will often gather for an impromptu karaoke session. *Zhongshan Park* in northwestern central Shanghai, is famous for its monumental statue of Chopin.

The *Yuyuan* or Happiness Garden, is a peaceful oasis filled with gardens, pavilions, rockeries, bridges, dragon walls and traditional buildings. *Yuyuan Bazaar*, located just outside the garden, is a maze of tiny lanes and alleys filled with stalls that spill out of the centuries old build-

ings and offer a huge array of souvenirs, crafts and artwork.

Shanghai is a shoppers paradise. *Nan-jing Road Pedestrian* offers more than 600 stores, shopping malls and restaurants on both sides of the walkway. The *South Bund Fabric Market* where tailors will duplicate the latest designer fashions for a fraction of the price.

Shanzhai is a term that refers to look alike, knockoff and fake watches, handbags, mobile phones and more. Not so famous brand names are widely available in the flea markets, many with some creative modifications.

Don't expect vendors to understand English. They speak a language known as international pocket calculator. You point to a particular item, and the merchant hands you a calculator with the price keyed in. Haggling is the rule, just don't expect to win.

Language can be bit of a barrier for visitors, so always have a card with the name and address of your hotel in Chinese when you go somewhere. You can show it to the cab driver, so he knows how to take you back to your hotel. Buses and trains will usually announce the station in English if it's near a tourist spot.





Let the good times roll Carnival is bringing the Big Easy to Europe

hen Carnival launched their first ship, TSS Mardi Gras, they made cruising a lot less formal, a bit less fancy, and a whole lot more fun. Nobody expected this ship to change the cruise world, but it did! Next year, Carnival will be launching a brand-new ship with a familiar name — Mardi Gras.

Minutes after departing on its maiden voyage in 1972, the former *Empress of Canada* ran aground. In order to calm nervous passengers, an enterprising bartender called out "This is a fun ship!" and opened the bar, accidentally creating Carnival's signature tag line.

Six times larger than its namesake the 180,000-ton behemoth shouts "fun!" at the top of its lungs. Carnival's biggest cruise ship will offer a variety of neverbefore-seen innovations and attractions. *Grand Central* takes the traditional atrium concept to new heights, combining a day-to-night entertainment complex

with spectacular three-deck-high floorto-ceiling windows and a bar overlooking the starboard side of the ship.

BY RENU SAGGAR

In a nod to New Orleans' culture and cuisine, the *French Quarter* will be lined with new bars, music and eateries that perfectly capture the festive spirit of the Big Easy. It's linked to a traditional New Orleans jazz club via a two-deck-high promenade. The authentically delicious *Emeril's Bistro 1396* was developed in partnership with celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse. Bam!

The 5,200-plus-passenger ship will also be the first in North America to be powered by Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), as part of Carnival Corporation's green cruising platform. While the ship retains Carnival's traditional whale tail funnel, the hull design and livery will be completely new.

In another cruise industry first, get ready to ride BOLT the fastest — and first! — roller coaster at sea. Strap in and race your motorcycle-style speed machine around an open-air course high above sea level. This all-electric thrill ride puts you in the driver's seat. You control the speed, so step on it and try for the fastest time. Or, go light on the pedal and take in the amazing 360° ocean views!

BOLT will be the centerpiece of the *Ultimate Playground,* home to the largest



and most elaborate *Carnival WaterWorks* aqua park in the fleet, along with an expanded SportSquare.

Carnival calls *Summer Landing* "the greatest chill spot at sea." Summer is BBQ season, so they're opening Guy's Pig & Anchor Smokehouse/Brewhouse. It always tastes like summer with freshly smoked faves created by Guy Fieri and *Parched Pig* beers brewed just feet away.

Staterooms feature a thoughtful, guest-centric design packed with innovations and in-room conveniences paired with a fresh new look. Balcony cabins are just steps away from the outdoors and your private open-air oasis complete with some amazing ocean views

Mardi Gras will sail its maiden voyage on August 31, 2020, a 9-day sailing from Copenhagen Denmark to London (Southampton) England. Ports include Kiel (Hamburg) Germany; Gothenburg, Sweden; Oslo Norway; Zeebrugge (Brussels) Belgium; Rotterdam; Holland; and Le Havre (Paris), France.

Copenhagen reminds you of the stories where everyone lives "happily ever after." Maybe it's the spirit of Hans Christian Anderson, but it's easy to feel as if you've stepped into a fairy tale. Perhaps it's the

graceful sweep of 18th century spires reaching up to the sky, or the ephemeral Nordic light.

Nyhavn is a picture sque canal that runs down to the main harbor and is framed by colorful row houses and boisterous cafes. Hans Christian Andersen wrote his first fairy tale at number 20 Nyhavn in 1835.

Oslo, Norway's capital city lies in the heart of Scandinavia and at the head of the 61-mile long Oslo Fjord. Dominating the port is the *Akershus Fortress*, a medieval castle and royal residence built in 1299.

With the Elbe and Alster rivers as its boulevards, tall church spires and splendid, Hanseatic buildings Hamburg is one of Europe's most captivating cities. During the 19th century, St. Nicholas's Church, was the world's tallest building. When the Beatles played their first gig in the city's notorious *Reeperbahn* in 1960, they were an unknown band from Liverpool. Today, the former red-light district has been transformed into an attractive entertainment center.

Paris is a city so ingrained in our romantic imaginations that any visit becomes an excursion into "la vie sentimentale." While London, in the words of Noel Coward, is a "bloody good place to be."

Fortunately, you won't have to choose. London landmarks include Big Ben, The Tower of London and Buckingham Palace, while Paris is crowned by the Eiffel Tower, the ruins of Notre Dame and L'Arc de Triomphe. Paris is home to the Louvre, the world's most famous art museum, while London has the British Museum, the oldest, most august museum in the world.

After crossing the Atlantic and sailing a Canada/New England cruise from New York, Mardi Gras will homeport in Port Canaveral, Florida, from a new \$150-million, state-of-the-art terminal inspired by the nearby Kennedy Space Center. Mardi Gras will sail two different three-port, seven-day itineraries from the Space Coast, alternating eastern and western Caribbean sailings to some of the region's most popular ports.

Eastern Caribbean cruises will visit San Juan, Amber Cove and Grand Turk. Western Caribbean sailings will stop in Cozumel, Costa Maya and Mahogany Bay (Isla Roatan).

A second XL-class ship will start construction in 2020 and be delivered in 2022, to mark the 50th anniversary of Carnival Cruise Line's founding.





Pier Park offers unique family attractions

This is a Real Fun Beach Panama City Beach – Make it Yours

anama City Beach may be known for its 27-mile stretch of sugar white sand, emerald green waters and year-round sunshine, but what may be surprising to the average visitor is the wide variety of activities and amenities the destination has to offer.

Whether you are looking for an adrenaline-filled getaway, romantic weekend, action-packed family vacation, or to take a break in nature, this Real.FUN. Beach has you covered. Travelers from all over the world choose to visit the area for its beaches, but there is much to be discovered beyond the shoreline. Panama City Beach's vast array of exciting and unique activities cater to every type of traveler, ranging from young kids and multigenerational families, to couples and solo explorers.

If you're a thrill-seeker, a dare devil, or have a thirst for adventure, a vacation spent lounging by the pool or napping under an umbrella may not appeal to you. Chart your own course by jumping on a jet ski or renting a pontoon boat to cruise the gulf waters. *Shell Island*, located in between the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrews Bay, is a seven-mile long, undeveloped barrier island beloved by visitors and locals alike. Filled with protected sand dunes, coastal scrub forest and an inland lake, Shell Island is the perfect



The Panama Beach Skywheel

place to explore the open waters and its undiscovered treasures. You might even make a few friends along your trip, as dolphins, deer and sea turtles frequently visit the island.

Rated one of the top destinations for snorkelers in the world by TripAdvisor, Panama City Beach is an ideal place to get your feet wet. Sheltered by a thick row of rocks, the 7-15-foot-deep pool allows for calmer waters to see a variety of breathtaking fish and sea life. If you are lucky, you may even spot a raccoon or two stealing bait from the fisherman along the jetties. For the more experienced diver, the destination is home to a wide variety of dive shops, providing visitors with all the gear and gadgets they need to experience the perfect dive. Open Water Scuba certifications are available, as well as mixed gas diving and cave diving courses

for the advanced diver in your crew.

On the other side of Panama City Beach lies a whole new terrain. The area known as "West Bay" serves a different type of boat exploration — one that may be a little faster than your typical sunset cruise. The area's airboat tours allow visitors to see the lesser known parts of the beach, available to rent right at the foot of the *Buchanan Bridge*. The airboat's 635-horsepower engine will propel you through Florida's salt marshes to spy alligators nestled deep in the swampy waters. It is not uncommon for riders to see alligators sunbathing on the grass or dolphins swimming through the channel.

While the water provides plenty of action for visitors, there is tons of fun to be had on dry land, too! Visitors of Panama City Beach will greatly enjoy exploring the destination's popular Coastal Décor By The Shore Trail, a vast selection of stores and shops specializing in coastal-themed antiques, furniture, gifts and accessories. Northwest Florida is known for its especially unique sense of style and design, home to brightly colored fixtures and quirky beach-themed art, showcasing a fun and whimsical aesthetic. With an ever-growing list of locations in Panama City Beach offering one-of-a-kind coastal décor, shoppers can head to the area for all their shopping needs spanning across all seasons.

Adventure lovers will love the destination's full throttle options available off the water as well, such as the *Max Flight Simulator* at *Cobra Adventure Park*, go cart racing at the *Indy Speedway* or the 100 mph spring propulsion of the world-famous *Slingshot*. The *White Knuckle River* at *Shipwreck Island Waterpark* offers 400 feet of twists and turns, or challenge the *Vertical Accelerator* at *Emerald Falls Family Recreation Center*.

Panama City Beach wants you and your family to make your vacation yours during your next visit. Visit their website at www.visitpanamacitybeach.com under the "Make It Yours" tab and take a quiz to see which vacation fits you best. A list will be provided with all the restaurants, attractions and activities you pick when you arrive.

Panama City Beach has plenty to explore. Each area of the beach has its own unique flavor and character. Adventure awaits at Real.FUN.Beach. They look forward to seeing you soon!

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The Meenakshi Temple in Madurai

South India's inspiring temples

outh India's distinctive culture sets it apart from the rest of the country. Comprised of the states of of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, each offers its own personality. The ever-changing landscape is characterized by ancient ruins, palm-fringed canals and towering temples filled with fantastic sculpture, ancient inscriptions and a pyramidal tower, called a *vimana*. The temples are important sources of religious teachings, culture and divine powers.

Chennai's historic neighborhood of *Mylapore* is often referred to as the soul of the city. Predominantly inhabited by Brahmins, it's home to the 17th-century *Kapaleeshwarar Temple*. The current temple was constructed over 300 years ago in the traditional Dravidian architectural style, with a 120-foot-tall gopuram, a painted and intricately carved entrance way. Other area attractions include

the Portuguese neo-Gothic San Thome Cathedral and the serene Ramakrishna Mutt Temple.

The state of Tamil Nadu is home to

BY **RENU SAGGAR**

some of India's most impressive temple architecture. These ancient Dravidian masterpieces feature brightly painted sculptures and fierce *dvarapalas*, or doorkeepers that guard the temple.

The magnificent *Brihadisvara Temple* of Thanjavur, was completed around 1009 by Rajaraja Chola. Located along south bank of Kaveri River, it is the largest and tallest of all Indian temples. It is the only structure in the world whose shadow never falls on the ground. The temple was made using interconnected stones without the use of mortar or binding material, an engineering feat that baffles builders to this day.

Ancient Madurai is home to the *Meenakshi Temple*, spread out over 15 acres on the southern bank of the Vaigai River. The four main towers and entrances are decorated with an astonishing array of sculptured and colorful gods, goddesses, animals and demons. The temple's main attraction is its stunning Hall of 1,000 Pillars, built in 1569.

Mahabalipuram, a popular beach town, is renowned for the *Five Rathas* — temples sculptured in the shape of chariots — and Arjuna's Penance, a huge carving on the face of a rock depicting scenes from the Mahabharata. A classical dance festival



takes place every year from late December to late January. Carnatic, South India's classical style of music, dates back to the 15th century.

Known as a "City of a Thousand Temples," Kanchipuram is located around 45 miles southwest of Chennai. Only about 100 or so remain, but many are unique in their architectural beauty. Located on the banks of the Vegavathy River, the Kanchi Kailasanathar temple is the city's oldest structure. Built between 685-705 AD, it became a model for similar temples throughout South India. It's famous for its mythical lion sculptures.

Arunachaleswar Temple sits at the base of holy Mount Arunachala in Tiruvannamalai, about 4 hours southwest of Chennai. The expansive temple complex features nine towers and three inner courtyards. During the full moon pilgrims come here to walk around the mountain. Numerous shrines and sadhus (Hindu holy men) line the path and meditation caves can be found all over the mountain. During the Karthikai Deepam Festival, on the full moon between November and December, a huge fire burns for days on top of the mountain.

Belur, in the state of Karnataka, has many magnificent temples dating from the Hoysala Empire, which built its capital here. The captivating Chennakeshava Temple was built in the 12th century and commemorates the Hoysala's victory over the Cholas. It took 103 years to complete and is adorned with some of India's most celebrated idol sculptures.

Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka, is best known as India's IT hub, but it's also home to many temples, including the 16th century Bull Temple. It takes its name from its star attraction — a massive monolithic Nandi (Lord Shiva's bull) carved from a solid piece of granite.

Hampi was once the capital of one of India's greatest Hindu kingdoms. Today, it's remarkable ruins are intermingled with the gigantic boulders that dot the landscape. The ruins date back to the 14th century, and stretch for just over 10 miles with more than 500 structures. Best known is the Vittala Temple. The main hall has 56 pillars that sound musical notes when struck. Visitors can also tour the Royal Center, where Vijayanagar rulers lived and ruled.

The sprawling temple complex of Lord Venkateswara (Vishnu) is situated high on a hill above Tirupati in the southern part of Andhra Pradesh. Visitors can walk the 4,000 steps up the hill to the temple or go by bus. One of the most visited and wealthiest Indian temples, it's famous for its gold-plated dome.

In contrast to other places in South India, Hyderabad, in the state Telangana, stands out for its remarkable Islamic heritage. The Charminar is undoubtedly Hyderabad's most iconic landmark. This historic 16th-century mosque with grand Islamic architecture stands at the center of the atmospheric Old City.

Kerala clings like a banana leaf to the southwestern coast of the Indian peninsula. Green and serene, this narrow strip of land between the Western Ghats and the beaches of the Arabian Sea is known as God's own country.

The origins of Ayurveda, India's traditional natural healing system date back here 5000 years. Specialized treatments have been handed down through generations of practitioners.

The 16th-century Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Trivandrum, is thought to be the richest temple in the world. Massive troves of gold, jewels, idols, and coins worth \$22 billion were uncovered when five vaults were opened in 2011 and the largest vault still remains sealed.

The Brihadisvara Temple of Thanjavur





For over 20 years, the *Glasshouse Nursery* has provided Chatham-Kent with landscape design services. landscape quality plants and hand-selected, large scale trees from local specialty growers throughout Canada and the United States. The Glasshouse Nursery and Garden Center Gift Shop is also filled the latest in home decor and gifting ideas and their Betula Boutique offers the latest trends in fashion including jewelry, shoes, purses, scarves and more.

Shopping is entertainment with a purpose and one shop does it all! *Gentry Manor* features a full service day spa, gift ware, as well as the latest ladies fashions and accessories. Browse one of a kind pieces, a great assortment of décor items for the home, baby clothing and gifts. Shop to your heart's content and then settle in for a head to toe treatment at their full service day spa located upstairs. It's retail therapy that's good for your soul.

Looking for that special piece of bling? Sonya Roe Jewelers, located in downtown Chatham, invites you to fall in love with pieces from around the world. From sterling silver, to signature diamond pieces that will appeal to every woman and fits any price range.

Your trip to Chatham downtown is incomplete without a visit to *Morgan House of Fashions*. They specialize in exclusive collections by European and Canadian designers like Cambio, Sarah Pacini, Cinzia Rocca, and Dean Davidon Jewelry to name a few.

Located on the site of a former local high school, *Birdie's Nest* presents unique collections personally sourced directly from 100's of expert craftsmen from around the world. The buildings and grounds have been transformed into a wonderful showroom and patio for treasures that come from the mountains of Thailand, to the rain forests of Indonesia. From rosewood furniture from India, to sterling silver from Bali and Mexico.

Ladies, if you're still craving for more top notch designers like Tom Tailor, Joseph Ribkoff, Dex and Lola, visit *Rachel's Room*, offering top quality fashions for the stylish woman. From casual to dressy they offer jeans, sweaters, blouses, tops, tunics, pants, leggings, skirts, dresses (dressy and casual).



A Chatham girlfriends getaway

amily vacations are fun, and romantic getaways will keep the fires burning. But sometimes you just need to reset, relax, and remember what it's like to have fun with just the girls. Friendships are important, but between work, parenting and spousal duties, they can be difficult to maintain. A girlfriends' getaway trip can be just the ticket to renew old bonds and remember what it was like to be uninhibited and care free.

Luckily for you, you don't have to go to Vegas to get away. Las Vegas has come to Chatham. Located at the corner of Richmond Street and Keil Drive South, the \$36 million Cascades Casino opened their doors last August. The new from the ground up facility features 320 slot machines that range from pennies to \$5 and include the latest titles from top vendors, as well as classic reels. They also feature a mix of popular table games including Roulette, Blackjack, Spanish 21, Mississippi Stud Poker, Ultimate Texas Hold'em and 3-card Poke. Their My Club Rewards loyalty program offers exciting rewards, more prizes and more ways to



The Cascades Casino

earn points — right at your favorite slot machine.

Dining options include *The Buffet*, and the MATCH Eatery & Public House, combining the welcoming and social traditions of a neighborhood pub, with a classic menu featuring a modern twist. Casual and upbeat, it's ideal for any occasion. Whatever your great night out looks like, they'll match it with creative comfort food, cold libations and exciting entertainment. All the restaurants are separate from the gaming floor, meaning they're family friendly and you don't have to be 19 years of age or older, to enter the dining facilities.

Experience Food, Fun and Unique Shopping in Chatham-Kent!





Christmasland will get everyone in the holiday mood

The Glasshouse Nursery & Garden Centre

t's the most wonderful time of the year. That is, if you don't mind fighting the crowds at the mall to do your holiday shopping. So, if Bedford Falls is beginning to feel more like Pottersville, try paying a visit to Christmasland at Chatham-Kent's Glasshouse Nursery & Garden Centre.

Christmasland features over 50,000 square feet of incredible holiday decor, figurines, garlands, wreaths and trees creatively displayed to inspire the holiday spirit. The largest Christmas store in Southwestern Ontario features silk and natural Christmas décor custom designed by 7 professional designers with a combined 100+ years of experience. Sample homemade fudge in over 30 flavors and delicious Liege Waffles, made right on the premises. Take part in workshops, inspiring demonstrations and special events throughout the holiday season.

Meanwhile, kids can check out their toy centre for items to add to their Christmas list. They carry a variety of seasonal toys for indoor and outdoor play, including gardening, puzzles, stuffed animals, puppets, educational toys and more. On Friday, Nov. 29th, bring the kids to experience Christmas fireworks, a marshmallow

roast and hot chocolate around the camp fire. Plus, Santa will be at the Glasshouse on Nov. 30th between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for photos and crafts!

Browse the latest in-home décor including unique furniture pieces and cabinetry, handcrafted from sustainably grown hardwoods such as mahogany and teak. Travelling all over Canada and the globe, The Glasshouse uncovers unique and ontrend home decor and accent pieces for

BY RENU SAGGAR

their unique and beautiful showrooms.

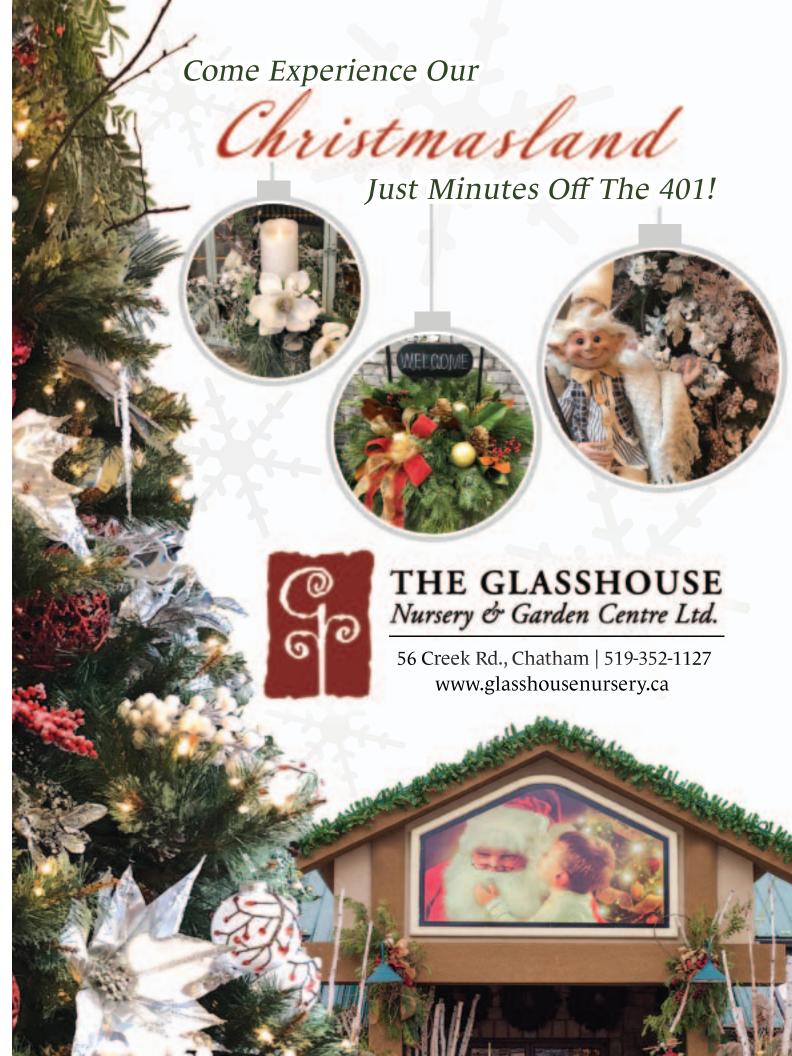
Bring the whole family and wander through their tropical greenhouse filled with unique and beautiful indoor plants. Every path and corner is filled with foliage and flora and the odd soothing gurgle of a fountain. Plants not only add life to your space and cleanse the air we breathe inside our home, they also benefit your sense of calm and well-being.

Ladies will appreciate their large onsite fashion boutique. 'Betula Boutique' carries an enormous selection of ladies apparel, jewelry, accessories and fashion forward footwear, plus handbags from Derek Alexander, Noelle, LUG and more. What's best about Betula is that Grandmothers and their Granddaughters can shop together under one roof, finding unique and special items they will both love!

Located just minutes off the 401 in south Chatham, *The Glasshouse Nursery & Garden Centre* is open 7 days a week year around through Christmas. Join the growing list of over 14,000 members of The Glasshouse Nursery's "Garden Club" and begin saving 5 percent on every cash and carry purchase over \$25, special bonuses, perks, and 'GCM' exclusive promos. Join their informative gardening newsletter group filled with instructional videos, tips, seminar and workshop info and stay updated with their special savings for every season of the year. Visit them on-line @ www.glasshousenursery.ca.

Come on out for the short drive today, the coffee's always on!







Seasons change in Ontario

hether you're looking for a place to snuggle up on a frosty winter evening, or some outdoor adventures, Southwestern Ontario offers an unlimited amount of close-to-home recreation, culture, the arts, shopping and entertainment. Holiday memories are made right here in Ontario, where traditions begin and the holiday spirit grows stronger each year.



Barrels Bottles & Brews

Explore the Barrels Bottles & Brews trail and experience 10 craft breweries & 2 distilleries in Windsor-Essex, the birthplace of Canadian whisky. The stops along the Barrels Bottles & Brews Trail are where you can experience the history of Canadian Whisky, Prohibition, and enjoy a flight of craft beer or small batch-ultra premium spirits. Sample the product at each location to obtain a stamp and complete your free *Explore and Pour Passport*. Once you've visited at least 7 breweries and 1 distillery you can redeem your passport for their Barrel Trail takeaway

BY **ADELINA IRVINE**

at the Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island offices, or at any of the participating breweries or distilleries.

You can also buy the new *Flight Log* passport for a self-guided tour and the chance to get a taste at all 12 stops on the trail for just \$25. A \$140 value, your flight log gives you an exclusive offer at each stop.

There is no shortage of elixirs that will tickle your fancy, from Canada's oldest whisky, to award-winning vodkas and some of the finest ales, lagers, stouts and more! Make sure to use the space in your passport to jot down tasting notes about your favourite craft beers & small batch ultra premium spirit at each stop.

Once you've filled your Flight Log with stamps (12 in total) you can redeem your passport for a Barrels Bottles & Brews bar mat (valued at \$30), available at the Tourism Windsor, Essex, Pelee Island main office location. Your Flight Log doesn't expire, so you can enjoy the Barrel Trail at your own pace and visit all the stops at your leisure! In total there

are 10 breweries and 2 distilleries included in the Flight Log: Banded Goose Brewing Co., BREW, Chapter 2 Brewing Co., Craft Heads Brewing Co., FRANK Brewing, GL Heritage Brewing Co., J.P. Wiser's, Kingsville Brewery, Sandwich Brewing Co., The Grove Brewing Co., Walkerville Brewery and Wolfhead Distillery.

Visit www.barrelsbottlesbrews.ca & start your #BarrelTrail experience!



FURIOUS faux fur at A-I a-Mode



A-La-Mode Fashions

A La Mode is a full service women's apparel store offering the latest fashions making your shopping experience personable and affordable. With two locations: Amherstburg and Windsor, A La Mode makes shopping twice the fun!

At A La Mode, they are all about fashion! They carry a wide variety of styles which can take you from day casual to evening chic, a fashion forward boutique always looking for the latest trends to match their customer's individual style.

Nuage, by Nikki Jones of Montreal, embodies the highest fashion with her coat collection. She blends craftsmanship, design, trendy colours, shapes and textures to create the perfect outerwear for women.

Founded in 2016, UCHUU by *Suzanne Foucault* is a modern, chic women's clothing line based in Montreal. She combines carefully selected fabrics, texture and color palettes to enhance a women's natural beauty, offering comfort and confidence for any age.

FURious Fur is a luxurious faux fur brand full of style which is becoming increasingly popular. They bring a modern and contemporary look to redefine faux fur in fashion.

They also carry Sandwich and Bylyse, the perfect combination of style and comfort. Created by Canadian designer Lyse Spenard, Bylyse aims to make women feel confident at any age and size with their elegant casual chic collections. Visit A La Mode for these and many other lines. Make an appointment with their friendly, professional staff which can help dress you from head to toe. They also carry a wide variety of shoes, boots, handbags, jewelry, scarves and hats to make that perfect outfit complete! Alternations are done on site at the Amherstburg location.

Visit them on line at Alamodefashions.ca.

Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge

The dining experience at *Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge* goes far beyond the innovative, award-winning cuisine. Located in the heart of Windsor's Little Italy, their menu offers the perfect twist on those Italian classics, with tantalizing appetizers like Antipasto Misto, Bruschetta, Gamberi Arrabiata and entrees like Osso Bucco, Pollo Funghi and Four Cheese Gnocchi. Their



The upscale setting at Mezzo

homemade desserts are the perfect way to put a finishing touch on your meal. Unwind in the Mezzo Lounge with a Mezzo Martini, or a cocktail made by their friendly and expert mixologists.

Mezzo is the perfect place to host office parties, anniversaries, and family get togethers. The beauti-

fully renovated Private/Party Room features etched glass walls, and a state-of-the-art sound system.

If you're considering a Christmas or New Years event, or a romantic Valentine's dinner complete with champagne, add Mezzo to your list. They offer seating for up to 120 and their lounge area is perfect for cocktail parties or pre-dinner drinks. The private room is ideal for groups of 35-40. Menus can be customized to suit your needs and budget, along with catering for any occasion. Call to reserve the lounge or private room and let the professional staff at Mezzo cater to your every need.

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





MEZZO

WHERE STYLE MEETS TASTE







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

Book your Corporate or Holiday Party today!

Enzo's Trattoria

If you're craving authentic Italian food, look no further, than Enzo's Trattoria. Located in the heart of Windsor's Little Italy it's hearty, made from scratch food prepared using the freshest

Enzo's Trattoria

ingredients to craft their signature dishes.

With over two decades experience in the world of gastronomy, Enzo Mancusco's passion and commitment to excellence is exemplified in every dish he presents. Enzo is famous for his homemade sauces — Bolognese Carbonara, Calabrese, Pesca-

tore and more—served over your choice of pasta noodles. Their three course *Taste of Italy* prix fixe menu is a particularly fine bargain, that finishes with Enzo's famous Nutella pizza! Either way, you will not be disappointed. An extensive selection of red and white wines are also available.

Patrons are served in a warm, cozy atmosphere surrounded by a friendly, attentive staff. It's the perfect place to host family gatherings, an intimate dinner for two, or a night out with friends! It's highly recommended for private parties, small receptions or any occasion. Catering is also available for your special event. Celebrate with Enzo this holiday season, New Year's or for that perfect Valentine's Day dinner.

Visit them at Enzos.ca to view their full menu, business hours and to book that special reservation!

Sushi Bar

Whether you are an avid sushi fan or new to the trend, Sushi Bar has something for you! Located in Lakeshore they offer a variety of both sushi and Japanese cuisine. It's great tasting food and a wonderful dining experience that you must try.

Their menu is filled with delicious appetizers, rolls, boats, and dinners and is meant to be shared. Start with small plates like Beef Negimaki — local beef sirloin wrapped asparagus, grilled & topped with teriyaki sauce. Some of their best sellers include the *Firecracker* (shrimp tempura & cream cheese, topped



Sushi Bar

with crab, house sauces and baked until golden brown) and the *Rock 'n Roll* (smoked salmon, crab, bbq eel and cream cheese, fully deep fried). The *Golden Dragon* is made with shrimp tempura, and cream cheese and topped with tempura sweet potato & house sauces.

And eating healthy never tasted so good. Sushi Bar is committed to using only natural ingredients at the peak of their freshness and flavor. Having a holiday party, New Year's, perhaps a romantic Valentine's Day or just getting together with some friends and don't feel like cooking? They will build you a custom platter that is sure to be a hit. Whether it's as an appetizer, or the main dish, sushi is never a bad choice.

For a full menu visit them at sushibarlakeshore.ca. Catering is also available and don't forget to order your sushi platter for your next get together.



EXPLORE THE TOWN THAT WHISKY BUILT TASTE 2 DISTILLERIES & 10 CRAFT BREWERIES IN WINDSOR ESSEX FOR \$25 Buy your Flight Log Tasting Passport now at flightlog.ca TOURISM WINDSOR ESSEX PELEE ISLAND

Amherstburg

Amherstburg is blessed with a spectacular natural setting and a storied past. The Detroit River and historic homes strung along its banks, are a delight at any time of year, but Amherstburg dresses her best during the *River Lights Winter Festival*. Hundreds of festive light displays and a life-sized Gingerbread Warming House will take off the chill of the winter season. Lights are lit throughout Kings Navy Yard and Toddy Jones parks every night starting Saturday, November 16, through January 6, 2020. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday the Gingerbread House displays entries from the annual Gingerbread House contest, along with free crafts for the kids, hot chocolate and Story Time, Sundays at 6 p.m.

The Amherstburg Holiday House Tour brings River Lights indoors with eleven stops and seven beautifully decorated, private homes that will inspire and dazzle you. The houses will be trimmed in their holiday finery, aglow with glittering lights, festive garlands and replete with precious family heirlooms. Professional decorators will enhance the beauty of these homes with some over the top holiday décor. These welcoming waterfront, historic and country homes will delight you and fill your heart with the holiday spirit.

Come out with your friends and loved ones. Tickets are \$25 per person and included in your ticket price is a special stop at Lot 10 Brewing Company for craft beer and tea service. Door prizes, holiday craft market, unique décor for every budget and more! The dates are Saturday, November 23 and Sunday, November 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Order tickets online at visitamherstburg.ca/events/holiday-house-tour.*

Artisan Grill & Fleur De Lis

No trip to Amherstburg would be complete without a visit to Artisan Grill. It's a perfect blend of fine dining and quality food served in a casual relaxed atmosphere. Located in a heritage building on Dalhousie St. in historic downtown Amherstburg,



Artisan Grill

the menu is hand made, crafted from fresh, farm to table ingredients. Meals are made from scratch and prepared with Chef Matthew Johnston's signature flare.

Outstanding service, a warm ambience, an extensive wine menu and live music on Friday and Saturday evenings all add to

your dining experience. Come and enjoy a wonderful evening .

Reservations are recommended but not mandatory. The Artisan Grill team is standing by to take your reservation for your corporate or holiday party, New Year's, Valentine's Day, or any special occasion. Visit them at artisangrill.ca.

Fleur de Lis their new French-themed, fine dining experience, is located upstairs. With a menu inspired by Chef Matthew's passion for French cuisine, the romantic atmosphere and elegantly choreographed service set the stage and the food takes the spotlight. They are currently open on Saturday night only, as well as additional nights for private functions. The dress code business casual/casual elegant and reservations are required, so please call to book your table.









Stop, shop, dine and pamper yourself in LaSalle

International Art Designs

Whether you're looking to redecorate your entire home, or just need that one perfect piece to complement a room, come and visit Windsor and Essex County's largest selection of contemporary interior décor and custom framing. International Art



Prints at International Art Designs

Designs has been serving clients for over 24 years, providing only the most unique products in the area along with exceptional customer service.

Owner and artist Ivana White began International Art Designs as a custom framing gallery, offering exquisite moulding and creative options for art pieces of every kind.

Sensing a need in the area for home décor with a

contemporary European flair, the gallery soon embraced unique pottery, glassware, mirrors, and giftware.

International Art Designs has the ability to acquire art on canvas, metal, glass and art paper in any size! The process begins by choosing an image that you like from one of their catalogues, then size, substrate and finish. There are many op-

tions and this makes your art piece a "one of a kind".

They also offer photographic services to their clients who like to restore and print old photographs to keep as a framed keepsake. Engraving services are done on site for picture plaques, trophies and more!

Owner, Ivana White has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, insists that all of her employees have backgrounds in art and/or interior design, thus providing you with credentials and experience to be trusted. With a wide selection of décor and giftware to suit every budget, come in and see for yourself!

Visit them online at www.internationalartdesigns.com.

LA Town Grill

Nestled in a quiet corner of Urban Selections Plaza, LA Town



Chef Salad at LA Town Grille

Grill is the perfect place to meet with friends, gather with family, or enjoy a romantic night out. Their casually upscale atmosphere, friendly waitstaff and small town charm will lure you in, but their food will keep you coming back. In case

you were wondering, LA stands for LaSalle, not Los Angeles as some people tend to think.





Generous portions made with only the freshest ingredients and reasonable prices are the perfect recipe for any discerning guest. Offering an ever-evolving and extensive menu, including both senior and children's selections, LA Town Grill has something for everyone. Lunch specials start at just \$9.95 and dinner specials at \$11.95. Seniors get a discount every day, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the menu ranges from home-style cooking and comfort food, to haute cuisine, all made with farm to fork ingredients. They look forward to welcoming you and try one of their daily homemade soups, perfectly battered halibut and chips, succulent steaks or savoury crepes. The popular Canadian Burger is 8 oz. of fresh ground beef topped with pea meal bacon & Swiss cheese. It's served on a toasted bun with lettuce, tomato, onion & mayo.

Book the private *Grill Room* for your next special event. They can accommodate up to 80 guests and the modern design will compliment any decor you choose for private parties, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, corporate meetings, Christmas Parties, New Year's Eve and more. In February, treat your significant other to a romantic Valentine's Day meal.

Check out their menu and more at latowngrill.com.

Great Presentations

Great Presentations has grown from a quaint neighbourhood home-based business to a popular retail storefront in LaSalle.

Located in the Urban Selections Plaza, Great Presentations is filled with unique fashions, accessories, décor and gift items, including shower and wedding favours, social committee gifts and they even offer gift-wrapping!

Whatever your passions or pursuits, Great Presentations is sure to come up with a solution. Their women's fashions line ranges from pants and tops, to coats and accessories. They bring in new clothes and accessories for every season and carry sizes from 4-16. With the latest trends, and designer labels, you'll be sure to find exactly what you are looking for when adding something new to your wardrobe. Brands include Parkhurst, neon buddha, DKR& Co. Apparel, Red Coral and Lisette L Montreal. Parkhurst sweaters are famous for their exceptional quality, being eco-friendly and having fun Canadian themed designs. Lisette L's philosophy is simple. Craft beautiful, stylish and comfortable pants that fit every woman.



Great Presentations

Looking for a house-warming gift? Perhaps an anniversary or a birthday present for a youngster? Be sure to stop by and they can help you find that unique and special item for your next occasion.

Buy your tickets in advance for their bi-annual

fashion shows held in April and September at LA Town Grill!

Whether you are sprucing up your own home or looking for the perfect something for a graduation or a housewarming, Great Presentations features a wonderful selection of home décor. With so many different kinds of wall plaques, clocks, frames, and statuary, you are sure to find that perfect gift or accessory matches your style.

Visit them online at www.greatpresentations.ca.





A Step Above Wellness Centre

ave you ever wanted to feel 10 years younger and wished you could lift the hands of time? A Step Above Wellness Centre specializes in skin care from head to toe. Owner, Fawn Meeking RPN, is dedicated to providing professional medical aesthetics, medical foot care and medical spa services using the most advanced technologies available.

Restore youthful, healthy looking skin with TriBella three-in-one total facial treatments.

Tribella combines photofacial, anti-aging and skin resurfacing to improve skin tone, elasticity and texture quickly and effectively. The three treatments work together to improve wrinkles and reduce the effects of aging, so you can achieve a firmer, younger appearance.

The TriBella photofacial treatment corrects discoloration, fades age spots, reduces sun damage and improves skin tone. It uses precise bursts of intense pulsed light (IPL) to improve the appearance of uneven skin tone and sun damage. The light targets and reduces the hemoglobin pigment inside visible blood vessels and dark pigmented spots. The result is glowing, younger-looking skin.



Tribella three-in-one photo facial treatments

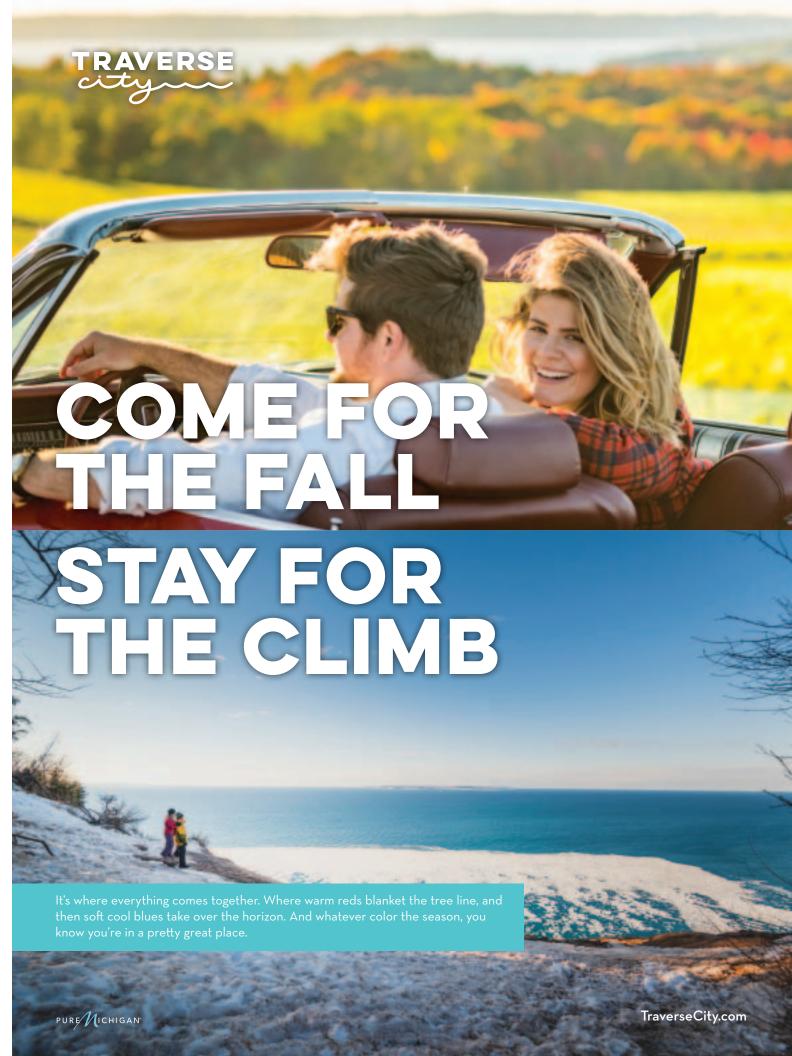
Then, the anti-aging treatment diminishes fine lines, reduces wrinkles and firms up skin. It uses a comfortable combination of heat to promote blood flow and increase the production of collagen and elastic fibers.

Lastly, the skin resurfacing treatment uses tiny electrode pins to smooth out uneven skin texture, reduce scars, rosacea, enlarged pores, stretch marks and other skin textural conditions.

The newest addition to their amazing menu of treatments is BBL Emsella, the most revolutionizing technology for treating urinary incontinence in men and women. The first and the only non-invasive treatment for urinary incontinence it uses HIFEM (High-Intensity Focused Electromagnetic) technology to stimulate all parts of the pelvic floor at once, enabling a single, 28-minute session to contract pelvic floor muscles thousands of times. Just imagine 11,800 super maximal Kegel like contractions in only 28 minutes! The "Kegel Thronre" is a breakthrough treatment for incontinence, that allows you to remain fully clothed.

Visit them online at astepabovewellness.com.







There's no place like Holland, MI!

Plan your trip to Holland to see lifesize statues of Dorothy and her friends along the yellow brick road! This permanent year-round display pays homage to L. Frank Baum, who wrote parts of his famous book while staying at his family's cottage, just a few short miles from downtown Holland!





HOLLAND PURE (ICHIGAN®