

EXPLORE Southwest Michigan



BENTON HARBOR • ST. JOSEPH • STEVENSVILLE

WHERE WINERIES, WAVES AND WELCOMING TOWNS CREATE THE PERFECT ESCAPE.

Do you know that feeling of wonder when the breeze lightens your step, the air smells so fresh you can almost taste it, the season's colors burst around you and you can't help but lift your arms with exuberance — or lean onto a loved one's shoulder and let peacefulness wash over you? It awaits here.

Pause your world and come into ours for a day, or more. You'll fit right in. Enjoy the exhilaration of magnificent Lake Michigan, the heartwarming comfort of our small towns, the abundance of our vineyards and orchards and the calming embrace of surrounding nature. Find yourself in our boundless creativity, unleash the thrill of new adventures and delight in the simplest pleasures.



Where Will You Go First?

Here, you'll find endless adventure along our lakeshore. This guide will help you navigate our scenic dunes and countryside, vibrant beach towns and inspire new experiences to make your visit unforgettable.

WHERE WE ARE

- 4 | Map
- 6 | Local Towns

THINGS TO DO

- 10 | Bucket List
- 12 | Summer Weekend Itinerary
- 14 | Beach Days
- 16 | Golfing & Sports
- 18 | Trails
- 20 | Farms & Markets
- 22 | Makers Trail
- 24 | Foodie Favorites
- 26 | Art & Culture
- 28 | Family Fun Itinerary
- 30 | For Little Explorers
- 32 | Must-Try Experiences

PLAN YOUR GETAWAY

- 33 | Annual Events
- 34 | Accommodations
- 35 | Getting Here





ARS Gallery

BENTON HARBOR

Art by the water



Houndstooth



Benton Harbor Arts District



Carronde Park



Harbor Shores Golf Course

Shoreline Hub

Book your stay in Benton Harbor, St. Joseph or Stevensville. These towns are your hub for exploring Southwest Michigan's lakeshore.



Lazy Ballerina Winery

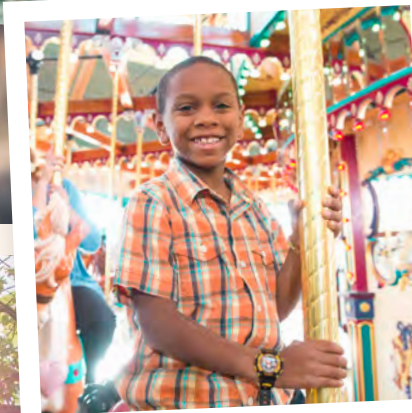
ST. JOSEPH

Romantic Beach Town



The Market

St. Joseph North Pier Lighthouse



Silver Beach Carousel



Peat's Cider Social



Watermark Brewing Co.



STEVENSVILLE

Village by the Dunes

Grand Mere State Park



Warren Dunes State Park | Sawyer

Surrounding Communities

Ready for a Southwest Michigan adventure? Venture out to our surrounding towns to discover the hidden gems nearby.



Bixby Farms | Berrien Springs



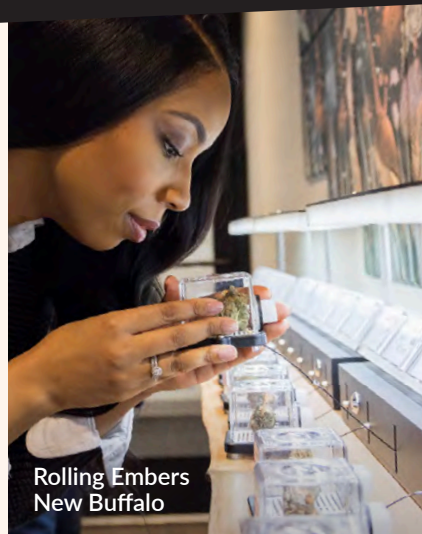
Drier's Butcher Shop | Three Oaks



Great Lakes Antique Mall | Coloma



River St. Joe | Buchanan



Rolling Embers
New Buffalo



Berrien County Youth Fair
Berrien Springs



Weko Beach | Bridgman



Thistledown & Row | Buchanan



Rebecca's Ceramics | Bridgman



Warren Woods State Park
Three Oaks



Froehlich's | Three Oaks



Lemon Creek Winery
Berrien Springs

FROM SCENIC BEACHES TO VIBRANT ARTS, EXPLORE EVERYTHING SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN HAS TO OFFER

Dive into our curated collection of must-do activities, hidden gems and treasured times that will leave you with lasting memories.

This isn't just a bucket list — it's your year-round invitation to explore Southwest Michigan. From summer's sun-drenched beaches to winter's snowy wonderlands, each season offers something unique. Use this guide to experience the best of every season and keep coming back for more.

Silver Beach Carousel

The Ultimate Bucket List

LIFE'S TOO SHORT FOR "SOMEDAY,"
START CHECKING OFF YOUR LIST TODAY

- ☐ Ride the Silver Beach Carousel
- ☐ Sip drinks at Round Barn Winery
- ☐ Spend a beach day at Warren Dunes
- ☐ Stargaze at Dr. T.K. Lawless Dark Sky Park
- ☐ Watch the sunset at Weko Beach
- ☐ Explore the Berrien County Youth Fair
- ☐ Kayak the Paw Paw River
- ☐ Pick fresh produce at Stover's U-Pick
- ☐ Taste sweet corn from Hollywood Farms
- ☐ Visit Jollay Orchards in the fall
- ☐ Shop at the St. Joseph Farmer's Market
- ☐ Tee off at Harbor Shores Golf Course
- ☐ Ride the Eden Springs Trains
- ☐ See the Fernwood Lights

The Perfect Summer Weekend Itinerary

3 DAYS IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Ready for a perfect summer escape? Rachel Kawate, an influencer from Chicago focused on national and international travel, shares her dreamy Southwest Michigan itinerary, packed with charming shops, farm-to-table dining and epic adventures.



Anemel



Warren Dunes State Park

FRIDAY

- 6 PM:** Checked into my waterfront hotel and instantly felt the relaxing beach town vibe.
- 7 PM:** Kicked off the trip with a delicious dinner at Bread+Bar, a local restaurant near the hotel.

SATURDAY

- 9 AM:** Enjoyed a cozy breakfast at a local café before a day of exploring.
- 10 AM:** Browsed charming downtown St. Joseph shops and soaked in the lively atmosphere.
- 11 AM:** Learned to make cinnamon rolls at the Culinary Cottage — book early; it sells out!
- 1:30 PM:** Lunch at Anemel lived up to the hype.
- 3 PM:** Sandboarding at Warren Dunes was a blast with rentals from Third Coast Paddling.
- 6 PM:** Wrapped up the day with an incredible farm-to-table dinner at Emma Hearth & Market.

SUNDAY

- 9 AM:** Grabbed a quick, healthy breakfast from Verde Juice Bar.
- 10:30 AM:** Picked fresh produce at Fruit Acres Farm Market — a sweet experience.
- 12 PM:** Enjoyed a final lunch at Hill District and explored the Makers Trail.
- 1:30 PM:** Ended the trip with a peaceful kayak ride on the Paw Paw River.

Emma Hearth & Market



Southwest Michigan is the perfect summer escape — great food, charming towns and outdoor adventures. If you're looking for a lakeside getaway near Chicago, I highly recommend it!

Find on Instagram: @RachelKawate



Hill District by North Pier



Fruit Acres Farm Market



The Culinary Cottage



@travis_worden



@npatel726



Lions Park Beach



@lydiawoosleyphotography



@casualcali



@greatlakesloving



Paw Paw River | Third Coast Paddling



@kylie_steele24



@ashtonleigh.photography



@photographybyajcrumley

EXPERIENCE THE BEST BEACH DAYS, BOATING AND DAYS ON THE WATER

Our freshwater paradise on the sparkling waters of Lake Michigan is the escape you need. From sunbathing on our golden sand beaches, to serene paddling excursions and refreshing swims, our region offers endless water activities. Whether you're seeking the tranquility of a relaxing day on the beach or sunset over the lake, the excitement of a boating adventure or the thrill of climbing a towering sand dune, Southwest Michigan is the perfect backdrop for happy memories.

Where the Waves Call

Tiscornia Beach

VAN BUREN STATE PARK

COVERT TOWNSHIP BEACH

ROADSIDE BEACH

HAGAR PARK/BEACH

ROCKY GAP BEACH
JEAN KLOCK PARK

TISCORNIA BEACH
SILVER BEACH
LIONS PARK BEACH

GRAND MERE STATE PARK

WEKO BEACH

WARREN DUNES STATE PARK

HARBERT BEACH
CHERRY BEACH

PIER ROAD BEACH

TOWNLINE BEACH

NEW BUFFALO BEACH

Chasing a Win

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN'S GOLF & SPORTS

Discover where the legends play. Find impressive championship golf courses like the Harbor Shores Golf Course along our Lake Michigan shoreline. This Jack Nicklaus signature course is perfect for a challenging round.

Beyond the green, Lake Michigan's waves draw surfers. Pickleball and disc golf are rapidly growing in popularity, and mini-golf is always a hit. When winter arrives, embrace the snow with cross-country skiing, fat tire biking, snowshoeing and classic sledding. Southwest Michigan's diverse range of sports and recreational activities offer year-round opportunities to stay active.



Galien River



Harbor Shores Golf Course



Surfing Lake Michigan



Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area | @learningfrommylittles



Pipestone Indoor Golf



Love Creek County Park



Disc Golf



Fernwood Botanical Garden



Royalton Township Nature Trail



Harbor Shores Trails



Sarett Nature Center

ALL-SEASON ADVENTURES

Don't let the seasons limit your explorations. When winter arrives, strap on your snowshoes or cross-country skis and glide through pristine landscapes. Whether you're seeking a leisurely stroll or an adrenaline-pumping adventure, our trails and dunes beckon you to explore, year-round.

Miles of Discovery

FIND THE BEST TRAILS FOR HIKING, BIKING AND EXPLORING

Hike or bike along scenic trails, discovering hidden gems and breathtaking views. Conquer our sand dunes, with panoramic vistas and exhilarating climbs. From lush forests to lakeside paths, our diverse terrain offers something for every explorer. Take on our *Trails Challenge* and earn bragging rights while discovering the region's natural beauty.



The Cultivated Life

Jollay Orchards

A-Mazing Acres Corn Maze

LOCAL FARMERS NOURISH OUR COMMUNITIES, YOUR FAMILY & THE FUTURE

Dive into the flavors of Southwest Michigan, where sun-kissed fruits and crisp vegetables thrive. The same Lake Michigan that lures you into its sparkling fresh waters is the reason we harvest one of the largest varieties of fruits and vegetables in the United States! The lake tempers our climate to create some of the best growing conditions.

Pick your own juicy peaches, plump blueberries and crisp apples. Our farmers offer more than just fresh produce; they invite you to experience hayrides, corn mazes and farm-fresh ice cream.



Stover's Farm Market



@lilswearg



@tastethelocaldifference

FARM STANDS: A TASTE OF LOCAL LOVE

Don't have time to pick? Our farm stands brim with ready-to-enjoy delights: fresh fruits, homemade jams, pies, donuts and seasonal decorations. Savor the flavors of our family recipes and take home Southwest Michigan's harvest.



Piggott's Farm Market



Bixby Farms



Lehman's Orchard | @cottageonwhidbey

Flip to the insert on pages 10-11 to see what's in season!



@amarie.schultz



Filkins Vineyard



Journeyman Distillery



EARN REWARDS WITH THE MAKERS TRAIL PASSPORT



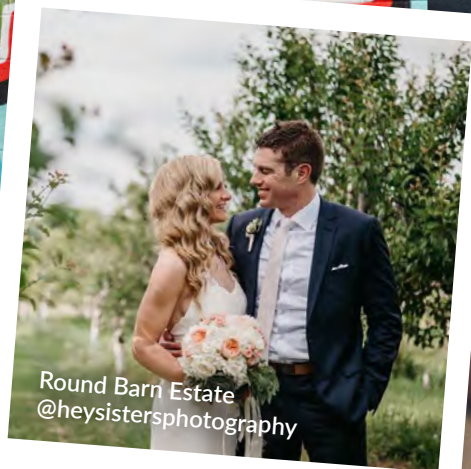
River St. Joe
@dani_f_baber

Round Barn Winery & Estate



Peat's Cider Social

Make your wedding uniquely yours in vineyards, charming beer gardens and historic buildings along the Makers Trail.



Round Barn Estate
@heysistersphotography

Makers Trail

MEET SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN'S CRAFT BEVERAGE CREATORS



The Makers Trail offers diverse experiences year-round at over 40 wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries. Relax by a fire or enjoy outdoor activities like hiking and winter games. Try wine tasting in heated igloos. Drink cider and bowl in a vintage bowling alley, and stroll through fragrant vineyards in fall.

Food along the trail is a highlight, with farm-to-table menus, wood-fired pizzas, juicy burgers and more. The variety of food and drinks, combined with unique venues, makes it worth frequent visits to explore new places, no matter the season.

Haymarket Brewing Company



Black Currant
Bakehouse



Plank's Tavern



The Cheese Lady



Iron Shoe Distillery



Ghost Isle Brewery



Red Coach Donuts



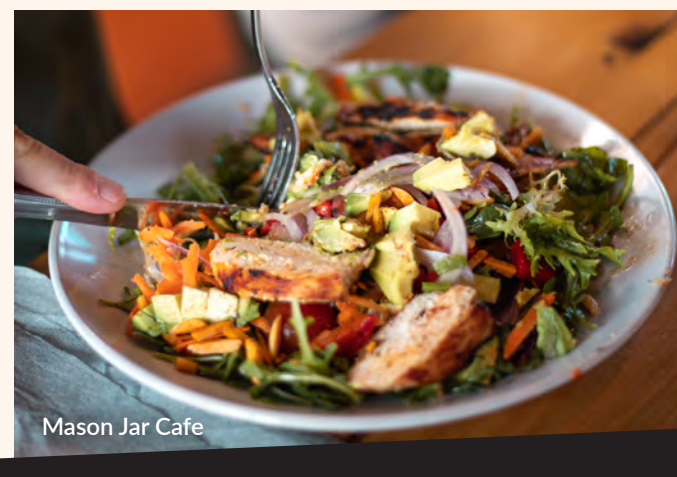
Timothy's



Kilwins



Froehlich's



Mason Jar Cafe



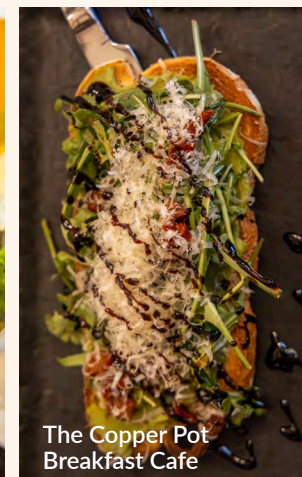
Clementine's Too



Silver Harbor
Brewing Co.



Chatterbox



The Copper Pot
Breakfast Cafe

Foodie Favorites

A CULINARY JOURNEY
THROUGH SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

As the nation's second most diverse growing region, our farm-to-table dining shines. Savor fresh lake perch, juicy Michigan blueberries and crisp apple cider. Local chefs turn rich agricultural heritage into unforgettable meals, from comfort food to fine dining.



Silver Beach Pizza



Taqueria Don Chepe



Grande Mere Inn



Houndstooth



Happy Poochie



Tabor Hill Winery

Art & Culture

ARTISTRY IN EVERY FORM — PAINTING, PERFORMANCE, POETRY AND BEYOND.

The vibrancy of Lake Michigan, the serenity of our countryside and the rich stories of our past inspire us. Here in Southwest Michigan, creativity thrives — connecting you with the artists, actors, musicians and dreamers who call this place home.

Immerse yourself in cultural experiences, from history museums and art galleries to live performances and hands-on classes. To fully engage with this creative spirit, take on two unique challenges: *Creative Connections* and the *Murals Challenge*. Step out, explore our exciting arts scene and let your creativity flourish!



Fusion Gallery & Studio



Continued Legacy Mural at The Livery



Water Street Glassworks



Box Factory for the Arts



North Berrien
Historical Museum



Krasl Art Center

St. Joseph Family Fun

A 3-DAY ITINERARY

Midwest Nomad Family, a St. Louis family of four, returns to St. Joseph every year as one of their favorite family-friendly destinations. Here's their go-to family beach getaway itinerary.

TRAVEL TIPS

BOOK AHEAD
(especially in peak season)

PACK BEACH ESSENTIALS

BRING CASH & QUARTERS FOR ATTRACTIONS

Find them on Facebook, Instagram or Pinterest as Midwest Nomad Family, or online at midwestnomads.com.

Sarett Nature Center

DAY 1: BEACH & DOWNTOWN

Morning: Silver Beach (sandcastles and swimming), lunch at Silver Beach Pizza

Afternoon: Silver Beach Center (Carousel, trains and Curious Kids' Discovery Zone)

Evening: Dinner at Clementine's Too, sunset stroll along the North Pier



St. Joseph North Pier

DAY 2: FUN & EXPLORATION

Morning: Whirlpool Compass Fountain, downtown shops, ice cream

Afternoon: Lunch at Mason Jar Cafe, Eden Springs Park (mini train), Slackers Family Fun Center (arcade and laser tag)

Evening: Dinner at Azul Tequila Mexican Grill



Slackers Family Fun Center

DAY 3: NATURE & DEPARTURE

Morning: Curious Kids' Museum

Afternoon: Sarett Nature Center (hiking)

Optional: Warren Dunes or Fernwood



Curious Kids' Discovery Zone



Lions Park Beach



Eden Springs Park



The Dairy Korner



Stover's Farm Market & U-Pick



The Little Things Play Cafe



Whirlpool Compass Fountain

Big Fun for Little Explorers

DISCOVER THE BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPOTS

From lively beach towns to interactive museums and outdoor adventures, Southwest Michigan is packed with family-friendly fun. Kids can splash in fountains, dig into the sandy shores or discover something new at engaging play spaces designed to inspire curiosity and joy.

St. Joseph makes family getaways easy with kid-friendly dining, charming toy shops and welcoming spaces for all ages. Whether it's a weekend escape or a longer stay, every visit is filled with opportunities to relax, explore and share unforgettable experiences.



A mural



The St. Joseph Lighthouses



A food truck



Lotus, the Krasl Hippo



A vineyard or an orchard



A public art sculpture



A piece of beach glass

EXPLORER CHALLENGE

Look out for these favorites as you travel through our countryside and towns.

Beyond the Ordinary

A COLLECTION OF THE MOST DISTINCTIVE & MUST-TRY EXPERIENCES IN THE REGION

- ☐ Play "River Rocks" at River St. Joe Brewery
- ☐ Bowl at Peat's Cider Social
- ☐ Mini-golf at Journeyman Distillery
- ☐ Charter fish on Lake Michigan
- ☐ Blow glass at Water Street Glassworks
- ☐ Climb to the top of the North Pier Lighthouse
- ☐ Sail the St. Joseph River on Tall Ship MJ
- ☐ Learn to cook at the Culinary Cottage
- ☐ Tour cannabis dispensaries
- ☐ Sandboard at Warren Dunes State Park
- ☐ Explore Bear Cave
- ☐ Tour wineries & breweries by bus
- ☐ Taste wine in an igloo



Tall Ship MJ



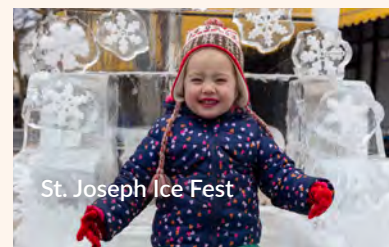
Winter Beer Fest



Berrien County Youth Fair



St. Joseph Farmers Market



St. Joseph Ice Fest



Glad-Peach Festival



Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade



Light Up the Bluff



Chalk the Block

Annual Events

Experience the vibrant spirit of Southwest Michigan year-round! From frosty winter festivals to sun-drenched summer celebrations, our annual events offer cherished moments for every season.

- Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade
- Berrien County Youth Fair
- Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff
- Pickle Festival
- Chalk the Block
- Red Bud Pro National MX
- Lake Breeze at Sunset
- Glad-Peach Festival
- Four Flags Apple Festival
- Winter Beer Fest
- St. Joseph Ice Fest
- Hunter Ice Festival
- Light Up the Bluff

Accommodations

From lakeview resorts to pet friendly hotels, Southwest Michigan has a place for you.



Visit our website
to find your next stay!

BENTON HARBOR

	Pet Friendly	Pool	Comp. Breakfast
Best Western 269-925-3000		•	•
Comfort Suites - Benton Harbor 269-925-8800		•	•
Country Inn & Suites by Radisson 269-927-4599	•	•	•
Courtyard by Marriott 269-210-3000		•	
Hampton Inn & Suites 269-927-5878	•	•	•
Hilton Garden Inn 269-926-5000		•	
Howard Johnson 269-332-0122	•	•	•
Kings Inn 269-925-5100	•	•	
Quality Inn & Suites 269-925-1880			•
Red Roof Inn 269-927-2484	•		
SpringHill Suites 269-338-8300		•	•
Staybridge Suites 269-371-0000	•	•	•
Super 8 - Benton Harbor 269-926-1371	•		•

ST. JOSEPH

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites 269-982-0004		•	•
Inn at Harbor Shores 269-983-1111		•	
Mark III Inn 269-281-0329			
Rodeway Inn 269-982-3333	•		
Silver Beach Hotel 269-983-7341			•
The Boulevard Inn 269-983-6600			

STEVENSVILLE

Baymont Inn & Suites 269-428-9111	•	•	•
Candlewood Suites 269-428-4400	•		
Comfort Suites - Stevensville 269-428-4888		•	•
Fairfield Inn & Suites 269-429-1111		•	•
Holiday Inn Express & Suites 269-281-8300		•	•
Spark by Hilton 269-588-1996	•	•	•
Super 8 269-429-3218	•	•	•
tru by Hilton 269-429-4444	•	•	•

See You Soon!

We truly believe there's something special here for everyone, no matter the season. Whether you're drawn to our stunning Lake Michigan beaches in the summer, the vibrant colors of our fall foliage, the cozy charm of winter activities or the blossoming beauty of spring, we invite you to experience it all.

We're passionate about sharing our favorite spots and hidden gems, and we encourage you to visit often, creating new memories with each trip. Don't hesitate to reach out; we're always eager to help you plan your perfect Southwest Michigan getaway. We look forward to welcoming you back, again and again.

Sincerely,

Marcy

Marcy Simpson, Executive Director



Lake Chapin

GETTING HERE

Traveling to Southwest Michigan is a breeze! Whether you drive, fly or hop on a train, you'll find yourself in this lakeside paradise in no time — just a short trip from major Midwest cities. Adventure is closer than you think!





Download our app and take
on one of our challenges.



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play

Southwest **MICHIGAN**

BENTON HARBOR • ST. JOSEPH • STEVENSVILLE

SWMICHIGAN.ORG | 269-925-6301

Copyright ©2025 Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council. All rights reserved.