

2015 • 2016



ParkVisitor[®]

**WELCOME
MAP**

POINTE AUX BARQUES

MICHIGAN

PURE MICHIGAN[®]



WELCOME

WELCOME TO MICHIGAN, offering more than a hundred state parks, thousands of miles of trails and more freshwater shoreline than anywhere in the United States. Michigan's woods and waters await – come experience the adventurous side of Pure Michigan!

-Governor Rick Snyder



MICHIGAN STATE PARK GIFT CARDS

Give the gift of the great outdoors this year! Cards can be used for camping, harbor slip reservations and merchandise, making them perfect gifts for birthdays, weddings, holidays, or just for fun. Purchase a plastic gift card at a park or send an e-gift card online at www.midnrreservations.com.



Rate a park!

Let us know how much you love our parks at ParkVisitor.com

PARTNERS GIVE BACK



The Park Visitor Welcome Map is created at no cost to the state of Michigan or taxpayers. Funding is generously provided by our partners, highlighted here in this map. In addition, 20% of the net proceeds are donated back to directly benefit Michigan state parks. Supporting our partners is also a great way to say "thank you" for their contribution to your state parks. For more information about your parks, please visit parkvisitor.com.

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The Park Visitor Welcome Map is created by Good Solutions Group in partnership with Michigan State Parks & Recreation Areas. To become a partner, call 626-229-9991 or visit goodsolutionsgroup.com for more information.



A Member Of **AMERICA'S
STATE
PARKS**

EXPLORE

A GREAT SWIMMING HOLE

Bond Falls Scenic Site is the U.P.'s second-largest waterfall. The Upper Peninsula Power Company maintains hiking trails perfect for exploring the falls, and there are great opportunities for fishing, swimming and boating on Bond Falls Flowage. The site is fully accessible, with six viewing platforms and 600 feet of boardwalk around the falls and the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River.

AN EERIE PHENOMENON

The Devil's Soup Bowl in Yankee Springs Recreation Area is a glacially-carved kettle formation that has created a unique and eerie depression. At dusk, follow the trail to the bottom to see the fascinating ecosystem of fluorescent mosses and lichen.

STUNNING SEASONAL SIGHTS

Explore the 35-mile Waterloo-Pinckney Trail through a combined 32,000 acres of state park land. Hike the ups and downs of ice-age land formations past mirror-like kettle lakes, just an hour from metro Detroit. See beautiful wildflowers in early spring, or visit in late fall for the best views of stunning colors.

UNNATURAL-LOOKING NATURE

Explore sinkholes near Rockport State Recreation Area and Clear Lake State Park. These deep, conical depressions are the result of collapsed bedrock, allowing you to view the tops of trees from above in some locations. It's weird. It's cool. It's a must-see!



THE POWER TO CONTROL IT ALL

The Cheboygan Lock and Dam is a great opportunity to see the system that controls water levels for the entire Inland Waterway and directly supports water access for various state parks, state boating access sites and other state lands upstream.



ADVENTURE

Negwegon State Park is one of the best “unknown” adventures in Michigan. The journey to this remote location will prepare you for the wilderness where visitors can camp at one of only four backcountry sites to explore over 3,000 acres of trails, rare and threatened species of plants and animals, and one of the best – and most private – beaches in Michigan.

Tippy Dam Recreation Area is a world-renowned location for Salmon and Steelhead fishing in fall and spring. With the many record-breaking fish caught here, it's little wonder that many local guides use this location for their fishing tours. It's also a favorite spot for adventurers seeking overnight stays during paddle trips on the Big Manistee River or when hiking the North Country Trail.

Burt Lake and Cheboygan State Parks are great places to stay during the Top of Michigan Marathon National Outboard Boat Races, held the second weekend in August each year. Contestants come from around the world to participate in a 45-mile race up the Indian River, through Mullet Lake, and along the full length of the Cheboygan River into the town of Cheboygan. Then, just for good measure, racers turn around and do the whole trip in reverse, ending in Burt Lake.

In addition to the hiking trail in Fort Wilkins Historic State Park that explores the shoreline of Copper Harbor, the fort makes a great base camp for adventure. There are also three Great Hikes near Fort Wilkins: Hunters Point, Estivant Pines and Horse Shoe Harbor.

CAMP

- Cheboygan State Park Lodge is one of the newest lodging options in Michigan state parks, offering stunning views and plenty of room for the whole family.
- If you are seeking a fun- and fish-filled weekend, don't miss the third weekend in June at Mitchell State Park. The Day on the Canal event features cardboard boat races, activities at the Carl T. Johnson Hunt & Fish Center, and waterfront campsites all along the historic Clam Lake Canal. Unforgettable outdoor fun!
- Enjoy a night to remember at one of four Dark Sky Preserves in Michigan state parks, including Lake Hudson, Wilderness, Port Crescent, and soon-to-be-designated Negwegon State Park.
- Interested in camping, but don't have the gear? We've got you covered with rentable pop-up campers, available at Yankee Springs Recreation Area, Interlochen, North Higgins, Charles Mears, Bay City Recreation, Port Crescent and Hartwick Pines State Parks.



10 HIKING ESSENTIALS!

- Appropriate footwear
- Map and compass/GPS
- Extra food
- Extra water and a way to purify it

I love a good hike!

- Rain gear and extra clothing
- First-aid kit
- Safety items: matches or a lighter, a light and a whistle
- Knife or multi-purpose tool
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Daypack/backpack



LEAVE NO TRACE

We encourage you to practice **Leave No Trace** when visiting your park or any outdoor trail or area. It is easy to do and allows others to enjoy the park, including animals that call it home.

THE LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES ARE:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

SHARE WHAT YOU LIKE TO DO AND YOUR FAVORITE PARK PHOTOS WHEN YOU RATE A PARK AT PARKVISITOR.COM.



To learn more, visit LNT.org



EXPERT TIPS

- Don't miss the East Tawas Point Grille, where campers and boaters can enjoy hand-cut fries and home-smoked ribs. Kids will delight in the signature snow cone with gummy worms!
- When you rent a cabin at Van Riper State Park, not only do you get to see fantastic sunsets over the lake, you also get a row boat to watch them from!
- Michigan is the place to be for anyone who likes to bike, boasting more rail trails than any other state. You can experience the North Central State Trail, a 62-mile trail of crushed limestone offering lake views, varied terrain and access to the North Western State Trail and the North Eastern State Trail.
- Kitch-iti-Kipi, or "the Big Spring" at Palms Book State Park is a must-see for any Michigan resident or visitor. Kids will love the self-powered raft over the spring, and all ages are sure to appreciate the breathtaking views.
- History buffs and wedding planners, as well as the general public, can be awed at the expansive and environmentally-friendly Felt Mansion/Estate within the Saugatuck Dunes State Park. Looking for that perfect venue for a special occasion? The estate and on-site historic chapel can be rented as a fun and unique space for weddings, family reunions and other events.



EVENT CALENDAR

For fun events, visit michigan.gov/dnr/calendar

PLAYGROUND CHALLENGE

Michigan state parks are home to some amazing playgrounds located lakeside, bayside and riverside. Challenge yourself to make freshwater playground memories with your kids!

- Bay City Recreation Area Spray Park is an interactive water park, allowing kids to "play by the bay." During the summer, the spray park is transformed into an outdoor cinema where campers and day visitors can enjoy an outdoor movie at dusk every Friday.
- Belle Isle Park offers a natural playground for kids to climb trees and roam over rocks. There's plenty more to explore at the nearby Nature Zoo and the oldest continuously operating aquarium in the nation.
- Charles Mears, Grand Haven, and Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park all offer waterfront breezes and sandy toes for kids who choose to take on these fun structures.
- Wells State Park's playground is completely accessible and is perfect for keeping the kids entertained and active on a camping trip.



INVASIVE FLORA

Help protect natural habitats from invasive species through the Michigan State Parks Volunteer Steward program.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

This tall, dense weed is an invader of river corridors, roadsides and old fields.



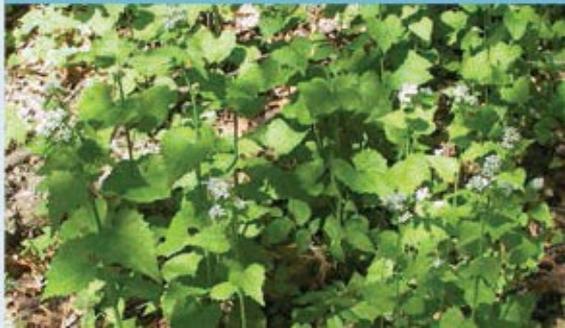
BUCKTHORN

This is a small tree that threatens wetlands and riparian areas, but can also spread to prairies and upland areas.



GARLIC MUSTARD

This woodland plant crowds out native wildflowers. Found in much of the southern Lower Peninsula, it now threatens forests in the Upper Peninsula.



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ROAD TRIP TIPS

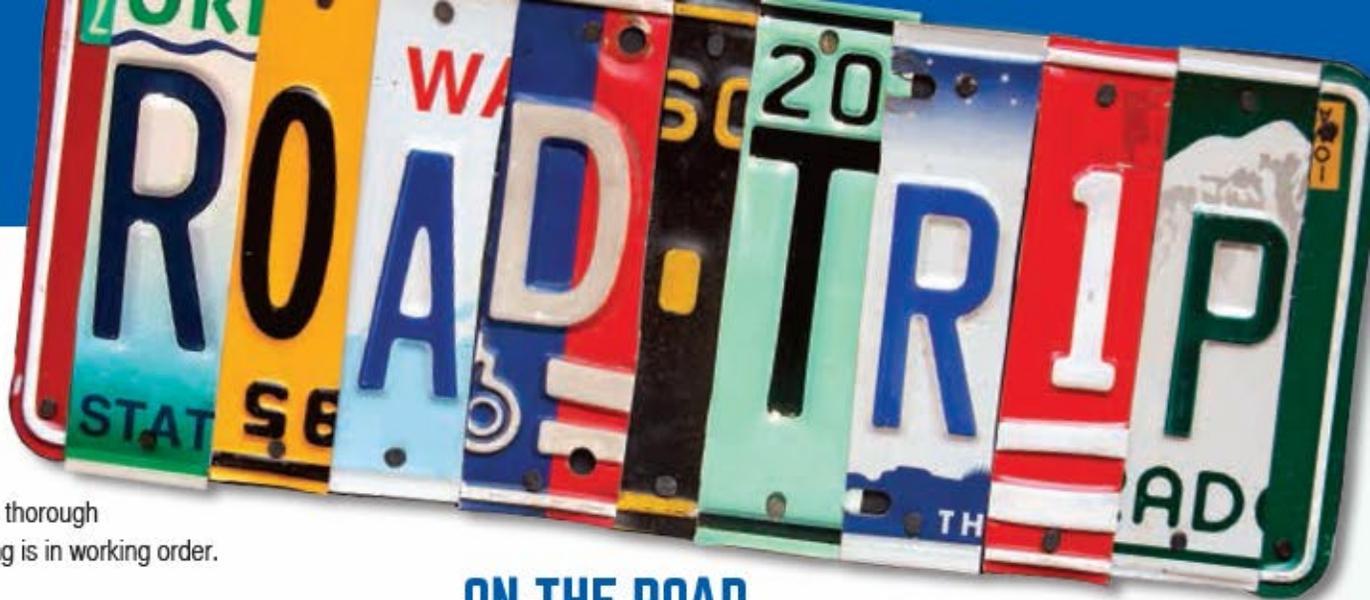
BEFORE YOU GO...

COVER UP: Make sure your auto insurance and registration are up-to-date. Visit geico.com for a free quote and to enroll in their Emergency Road Service plan.

STAY IN TUNE: Take your car for a thorough check-up and make sure everything is in working order.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT! Numerous apps designed for the 21st-century road trip can help you save money on gas (Gas Buddy, Fuel My Route), avoid traffic and tolls (iExit), teach you how to fix a flat tire (Breakdown Lane) and find the best local attractions and restaurants (Roadside America, Roadfood).

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT: Burn DVDs with music, comedy, podcasts and books so you don't use up the power on your electronic devices. Subscribe to a satellite radio station for even more choices.



...ON THE ROAD

KEEP IT CLEAN: A garbage bag will prevent clutter from accumulating at your feet. Keep wipes and paper towels handy for those inevitable spills and messes. Create zones in the car to keep things organized and easy to find.

STAY HEALTHY: Keep a cooler filled with ice, water and fresh food, or stop at a local farmer's market so you don't rely on fast food. Get out of the car and do some physical exercise *every day*.

MAP IT OUT: Record your journey on an atlas or map. This is a great way for kids to learn an important skill and GPS isn't always available!

WISH YOU WERE HERE: Write a blog from the road or post travel updates on social media to share this special experience with your friends and family.



YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



ParkVisitor.com
Insider Scores For Getting Outdoors™



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