

# 20 MICHIGAN *Summer* Travel Ideas



BY DIANNA STAMPFLER  
(PICTURED)


**1** It's no secret...I LOVE Michigan! I love the winding back country roads, the Mighty Mackinac Bridge and the thriving urban centers. I love the sitting outside on the deck savoring smoked salmon that I caught myself on Lake Michigan, paired with a glass of Michigan wine. I love reading books by local authors and listening to the sounds of local bands. I love our many, diverse festivals and events.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EASTERN MARKET CORPORATION




**PeninsulaPavers**  
PAVING BRICK & RETAINING WALLS



### Finishing Touches with Elements of Nature

- Sidewalks
- Driveways
- Patios
- Boulders
- Natural Stone
- Retaining Walls
- Seawalls
- Waterscapes



231.929.8075 • [www.peninsulapavers.com](http://www.peninsulapavers.com)



I love climbing to the top of a lighthouse, pretending like I know how to golf and paddling down the winding, flowing rivers. I love exploring historic sites and the sounds of the ground under my feet as I walk through a state park. I love the seasons...especially summer...as the sun shimmers on the lakes and rivers and warms the sugar-sand beaches that stretch out mile after glorious mile.

I love meeting new people, trying new things and finding comfort in the people and things which are my most favorite. I love that no matter how many wonderful experiences I have, there is always something new to do – someplace new to visit – all here in the Great Lakes State!

As you make your summer travel plans, consider these recommendations from someone who has “been there, done that” and can’t wait to do it all again!

**1. Island Hopping** – There’s such diversity when it comes to Michigan’s islands. You have the Victorian-era Mackinac Island, the Northern Exposure-like Beaver Island and dozens of remote islands like North and South Manitou, Les Cheneaux and Isle Royale.

**2. Outdoor Entertaining** – Grab a blanket and a picnic, then head to the grassy hillside at DTE in Clarkston for a concert under the stars. Or settle into one of the seats at Interlochen Center for the Arts near Traverse City for one of their unique shows. Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids also offers a summer concert series that welcomes nationally-recognized performers to its amphitheater.

**3. Set Sail** – Play pirate aboard the Tall Ship Manitou in Traverse City, Appledore IV and V in Bay City and Friends Good Will in South Haven. Each tall ship offers a variety of excursions throughout the summer months.

**4. Driving In** – Michigan is home to more than a dozen retro drive-in theaters including the Cherry Bowl in Honor and the Capri in Coldwater. Pair that with dinner at a vintage diner like the Blue Moon at Gilmore Car Museum, Powers in Port Huron and Rosie’s in Rockford (featured on the Food Network show “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives”) and you have the perfect 1950s-era get-away.

**5. Beer Touring** – Detroit is brewing history in the making and the folks at Motor City Brew Tours invite you to learn about it first-hand with their 9.5 mile guided bike tour past former brewery sites and a behind-the-scenes look at the next generation of Michigan craft breweries.

**6. Step Back in Time** – Once a bustling iron-smelting company town, Fayette is now one of Michigan’s historic town sites located along the Lake Michigan shoreline on the Garden Peninsula off US2 between St. Ignace and Escanaba. Be sure to take your camera because the setting is photographically spectacular!




### INSULATION

231-941-7786  
Traverse City

**ADVANCED INSULATION SYSTEMS**

[www.advancedinsulationtc.com](http://www.advancedinsulationtc.com)

**N** NORTHWOOD KITCHENS



*Where five kitchens are found*

10240 Cherry Bend Rd. • Traverse City, MI  
231-941-1470 • [www.northwoodkitchens.com](http://www.northwoodkitchens.com)

CABINETRY • FLOORCOVERINGS • CERAMIC TILE

[www.michiganhomeandlifestyle.com](http://www.michiganhomeandlifestyle.com)

### Advertising online can bring results!

**480,000 hits a month!**

AND GROWING

Contact your area sales representative for details.

[www.michiganhomeandlifestyle.com](http://www.michiganhomeandlifestyle.com)





PHOTO BY DIANNA STAMPFLER.

7. Try Your Luck – Michigan is home to more than a dozen casinos, the newest being Gun Lake Casino just off US131 between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Enjoy the 1200 slot machines, 36 table games, live entertainment and a variety of dining options.

8. Play Tom Sawyer – Take a trip aboard one of the various sternwheel paddleboats which travel the rivers of Michigan, including the Star of Saugatuck, the Grand Lady in Grandville and the Michigan Princess in Lansing. For unique entertainment options, check out the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series and the Chesaning Showboat Music Festival.

9. Just Dune It – Hop in the dune scooters and leave the driving to the professionals with Saugatuck Dune Rides and Mac Woods Dune Rides in Mears. Or, drive yourself in a Jeep Wrangler with Parrot's Landing in the Silver Lake Area – the only place in the state where you can drive your own vehicle on the sand dunes!



time to discover



At Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, your vacation comes to life with a backdrop of 900 acres of rolling greens, woodlands, and beach, surrounded by orchards, vineyards, and the beautiful blue waters of Lake Michigan. It's the surprising destination that has it all: exceptional golf, beach club, soothing spa and delicious food and drink.

[grandtraverseresort.com](http://grandtraverseresort.com) | 800-748-0303

Owned & Operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians



Download our mobile app



Request our magazine



Friend us online



Photo by Traverse Tall Ship Company

10. Shipwreck Exploration – Nearly 200 historic shipwrecks are found in the depths of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary near Alpena, a popular destination for divers, snorkelers and kayakers.

11. Take a Hike – Get outdoors at one of hundreds of local, county and state parks or head out in search of the North Country National Scenic Trail which stretches for almost 1,500 miles through Michigan's two peninsulas. The entire 4,400-mile route traverses through seven states, from New York to North Dakota.

12. Take in a Show – Michigan is a movie Mecca, thanks to the Waterfront Film Festival in Saugatuck (June 9-12) and the Traverse City Film Festival (July 26-31). See the latest in independent films in a variety of venues, meet with cast and crew and attend social functions celebrating the film industry.

13. Eat & Shop Local – Celebrate the local farmers and growers with a shopping trip for fruits, veggies and other edibles at Eastern Market in downtown Detroit, the Vantage Point Farmers' Market in Port Huron or the Holland Farmer's Market – where local chefs offer cooking demonstrations and classes every Saturday morning.

14. View-tiful Waterfalls – The Upper Peninsula is said to have nearly 200 named waterfalls, although many are very small and often overlooked by travelers. Tahquamenon Falls – on the Tahquamenon River between Paradise and Newberry – is the most impressive!

15. Hilltop Concerts – Music with a view...and then some! The Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor hosts a Summer Concert Series atop the mountain with views of Lake Michigan just a stone's throw away. One peninsula east, Chateau Chantal Winery invites you to Jazz at



Retirement Liquidation Sale

Every Item is PRICED TO SELL!

All Indoor Lighting  
All Ceiling Fans  
All Furniture and  
Much, Much More ...

144 Hall St., Traverse City, MI 49684

Ultimate Entertainment.



Lighting Control • Home Theater • Audio

231.935.4511  
[www.waaratechnologies.com](http://www.waaratechnologies.com)

waara TECHNOLOGIES  
SOUND WITH VISION

The Red Dresser  
An Eclectic Boutique

{231}929.8150

FEATURING upcycled clothing, reinvented furniture, vintage funk, 100's of items by LOCAL artisans, soy candles and so much more!

[www.TheRedDresserTC.com](http://www.TheRedDresserTC.com)

MON – friday 10:30 – 5:30 saturday 10:30 – 5:00 CLOSED sundays

Located in the Lighting Center Building

West End of the Warehouse District

144 Hall St.  
Traverse City  
Michigan



Sunset each Thursday evening throughout the summer – with views of both East and West Grand Traverse Bays.

**16.** Cast a line – Michigan is home to nearly 50 “Blue Ribbon” trout streams throughout the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula. The Manistee, Ontonagon, Pere Marquette, AuSable and six others are also recognized as “National Wild and Scenic Rivers.” For a totally different angling experience, charter a fishing excursion on one of the Great Lakes in search of steelhead, salmon and lake trout.

**17.** Dine Al Fresco – Why eat inside when you have so many options sitting along Michigan’s waterways. Grab a hand-crafted beer and pizza at Old Boys’ Brewhouse in Spring Lake, sample the new sushi and saki pairing menu at the six.one.six inside the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids, or settle in for an evening of fine dining and live entertainment overlooking the Detroit River with views of the Motor City’s skyline at Portofino On The River in Wyandotte.

**18.** Sample the Vino – More than 80 award-winning wineries are now found in Michigan – with more opening every year. With four federally-recognized viticultural areas and the “cool climate” benefits of Lake Michigan, the industry is sure to thrive for years to come. Stop into one of the many tasting rooms in search of your favorite varietal and enjoy!

**19.** Get Grillin’ – Why not take an active role in your dinner preparation! The Grillhouse in Allegan (featured on the Travel Channel) allows guests to select and grill their own dinner – whether it be beef, chicken, pork, seafood or vegetables. At Red Ginger in Traverse City, order up the Kobe Ishiyaki – which is a prime cut of sirloin steak, brushed with extra virgin olive oil and sea salt, cooked at the table on a Japanese hot stone!

**20.** Try Something New – New to the world of travel and exploration? Leave it to the experts! Wood & Water Eco Tours of Hessel in the Upper Peninsula offers kayaking, biking, hiking, birding and other excursions through the Les Cheneaux Islands area and beyond.

Uncommon Adventures may call Benzie County home, but their tours travel throughout Northern Michigan including the UP and Grand Traverse Bay. New for 2011 is the Tour de Brew which is a paddle to Power Island for an ale-infused lunch, followed by tours of Traverse City area breweries. The Becoming An Outdoors Woman program through the Department of Natural Resources provides female-friendly opportunities to enjoy Michigan’s great outdoors.

This summer, I challenge you to get out and explore your home state. Grab your kids, your best friend and/or your parents, and spend an afternoon, a day, a weekend – maybe even a whole week, getting lost in the magic of the mitten!

For more information on these and hundreds of other ideas on exciting Michigan destinations, visit [www.Michigan.org](http://www.Michigan.org). □

## Elegant Design & Custom Installation

**KISS CARPET**  
*Design Center*

Family owned for 25 Years

- Professional installation, that is fully warranted
- Assistance in finding the right product that works within your budget

<b>HARBOR SPRINGS</b> 8600 Moeller Dr. 231.487.9447	<b>MANCERONA</b> 7152 U.S. 131 N. 231.587.9450	<b>TRAVERSE CITY</b> 6250 E. Traverse Hwy 231.947.7247
---	--	--

[www.KissCarpet.com](http://www.KissCarpet.com)