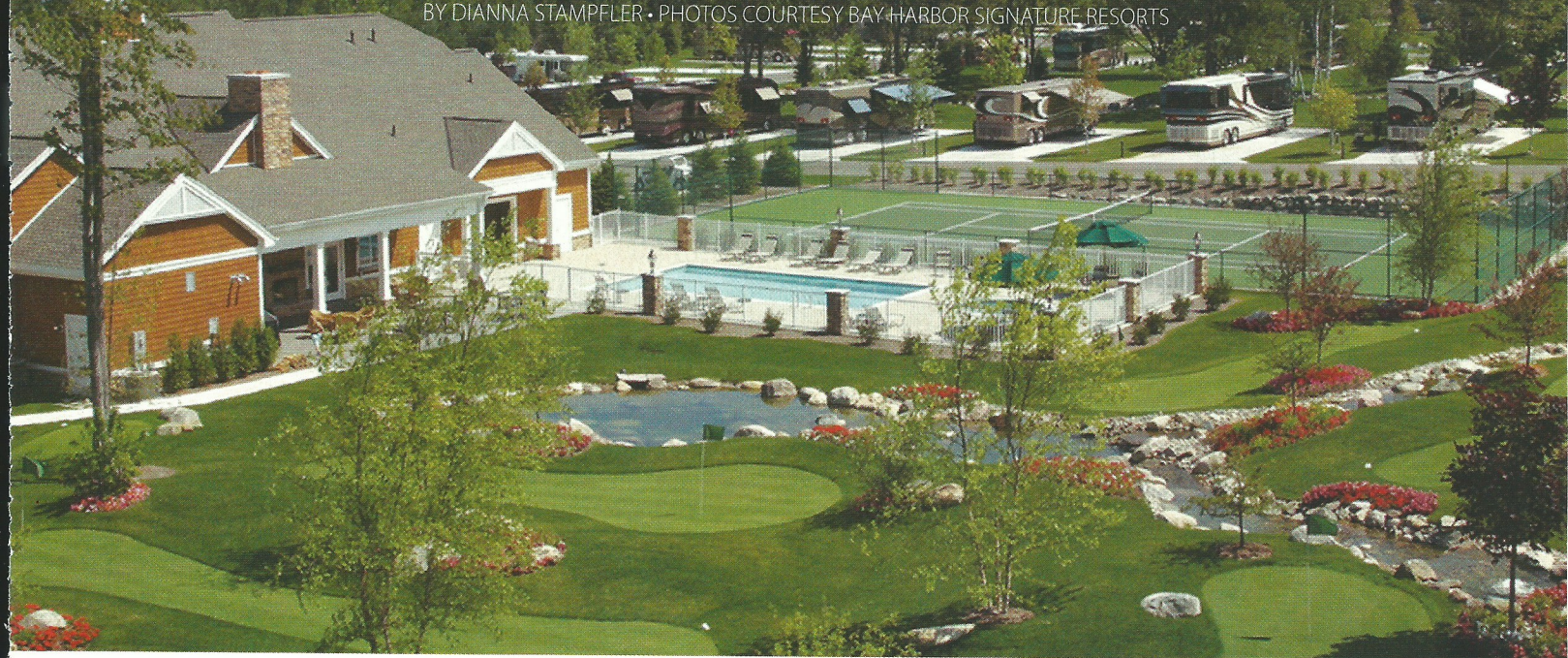


Rolling Into Michigan's Luxury RV Parks

BY DIANNA STAMPFLER • PHOTOS COURTESY BAY HARBOR SIGNATURE RESORTS



Scattered throughout Michigan, high-end motor coach and RV resorts are popping up to welcome travelers who want to relax in the lap of luxury. Many also offer options for lot ownership. Providing gated access, well-apportioned amenities and classy services, these communities are the seasonal homes for those on the go.

Even cable television has recognized this caliber of traveler—with HGTV's Luxury RV Tour and the Travel Channel's Extreme RV—which feature classy homes on wheels that boast spa-like bathrooms, wireless mobile offices and other comforts for those who like to travel in style.

Bay Harbor Signature Resorts
5505 Charlevoix Ave. (US-31), Petoskey
(877) 348-2401
signaturervresorts.com

Tucked in between Petoskey and Charlevoix, this 78-unit resort offers the finest amenities and recreational opportunities. Explore the local wildlife as you stroll along the paved trails or the woodlands of the Kinglet Nature Preserve. Or, saddle up at the nearby equestrian facility.

This resort boasts a 9-hole putting course, tennis courts, billiard room and state-of-the-art fitness center. An outdoor patio with wood-burning fireplace provides the perfect backdrop for socializing with neighbors, family and friends. The grand clubhouse also offers a fully-

equipped bar for cocktail parties, as well as two card rooms and a large meeting room, with a gas burning fireplace.

A variety of activities are scheduled nearly every day of the week, throughout the summer months—including the Biking Bunch on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, lodge cookouts on Wednesday evenings and game night on Sundays. Countless attractions and events can be found just a short drive from the resort—like the Odawa Casino, Boyne USA Resorts and boat excursion out of Charlevoix to historic Beaver Island.

Hearthside Grove Motorcoach Resort
2400 US 31 North, Petoskey
(888) 476-8388
hearthsidegrove.com

Nestled in the lush countryside of northwest Michigan—just five miles from historic Petoskey—this luxury retreat resort delivers first-class service on a 140-acre property, a stone's throw from scenic Little Traverse Bay.

Some 300 unique parcels—ranging in size from 6,500 to 17,000 square feet—make up this well-defined property. Class A lots are offered for daily and weekly rental, for those with RVs 10 years or newer. Ownership options are also available.

Guests will find two private clubhouses, with pool, laundry and



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fitness facilities—where programs such as aerobics, dance and martial arts are offered. A 45-seat theater with tiered rows of authentic, reclining movie seats, a 200-inch screen and surround sound, is ideal for group entertaining. Five-star concierge service and complimentary wireless Internet access can also be found. Gourmet breakfasts, poolside soirees and owner gatherings are part of the regular schedule at Hearthsides Grove.

Off premise options include day trips for shopping in nearby Petoskey, Bay Harbor and Harbor Springs. The famed M-119 “Tunnel of Trees” takes visitors up through Cross Village and Good Hart, with spectacular views of the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Hidden Ridge RV Community

2306 12th Street, Hopkins

(877) 787-8297

hiddenridgerv.com

Conveniently located between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, this deluxe gated RV community is a welcomed addition to the southwest Michigan area. Visitors can find 322 sites offering 20, 30 and 50 amp service for Class A RVs that are 25 feet or longer, and 10 years or newer. Each site features a fire pit and picnic table, as well as parking for two vehicles.

The property offers a heated pool and hot tub; log cabin clubhouse lodge with arcade games, media room, internet library and pool table; as well as laundry facility and bathhouse with private showers. Cable television and internet hookups are also available.

Bring your fishing pole and cast a line from the 50-foot pier, set on one of two private lakes. Paddle boats and rowboats provide hours of fun (no motorized boats are allowed). Other outdoor amenities include a playground; shuffleboard, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts; horseshoe pit and a picnic pavilion.

Just a short drive, guests can explore the many Allegan County parks and trails (including the Kalamazoo River Water Heritage Trail, the Allegan County Heritage Trail or a handful of equestrian trails). In nearby Barry County, the Yankee Springs State Recreation Area borders one side of Gun Lake (while the west side falls within the Allegan County boundaries).

Indigo Bluffs RV Park & Rally Resort

6760 W. Empire Hwy. (M-72), Empire

(800) 224-4488

indigobluffs.com

In the heart of the 72,000-acre Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore – rated the “Most Scenic Place in America” by viewers of Good Morning America – this “distinctive RV retreat” is relatively new to the Leelanau Peninsula landscape.

Here, visitors find not one—but two resort sections: one for motor coaches and the other for a variety of motor homes and towable RVs. Large, wooded sites offer full hook-ups, water and electric all on a 70-acre property.

Regardless of site location, guests find a reception building, multiple bath houses, laundry facility, property store, fitness room and recreational facilities including a pool, playground, basketball court, volleyball area and horseshoe arena.

Throughout the area, natural beauty abounds, just waiting to be explored. Take a day trip to historic Fishtown in Leland, visit one of the nearly two dozen wineries or take in a show at the world-class Interlochen Center for the Arts. Of course, unparalleled sunrises (on Grand Traverse Bay) and sunsets (on Lake Michigan) provide the perfect beginning and ending to any day.

River Ridge RV Resort & Marina
22265 8 Mile Rd., Stanwood
(877) 287-4837
riverridgeresort.com

On the spectacular all-sports backwater of the Hardy Dam sits this luxury RV resort, just 40 miles north of Grand Rapids. River Ridge Landing offers pontoon boat rentals, kayak rentals and boat slips, making this the ideal property for those who enjoy water recreation as part of their outdoor experience.

RVs from 24 to 45 feet in length (and no more than 10 years old) are welcome, with full hook-ups and 30/50-amp service, along beautifully-landscaped lots. RV rentals are also available.

On premise, guests can find a heated pool, horseshoes, river-front patio, play area, game room, club house, concession service (with free delivery to RV sites) and courts for tennis, basketball and shuffleboard. Wireless Internet and cable television are also offered.

Every weekend, themed activities are planned for families including Brown Bag Bingo on Fridays, continental breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and satellite church services on Sunday.

Nearby attractions includes five local golf courses, the 538,000-acre Manistee National Forest, the White Pine Linear State Park Trail and plenty of rivers, streams and inland lakes for fishing and paddling.

Traverse Bay RV Resort
5555 M-72 E, Williamsburg (Traverse City)
(231) 938-5800
traversebayrv.com

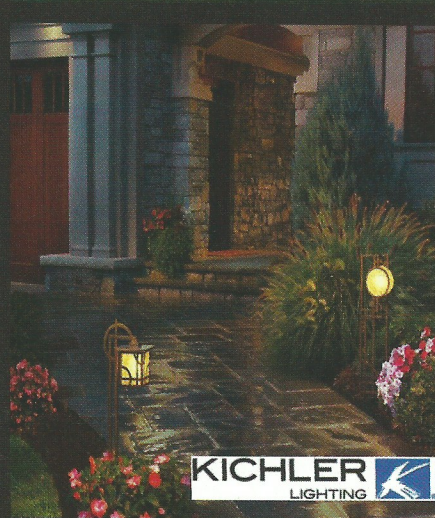
Perched “Up North” this upscale adult-oriented RV park is located in the heart of Michigan’s culinary capital. Here, dozens of wineries, a handful of breweries, award-winning eateries, and miles of orchards and vineyards welcome visitors looking to get a taste of the finer things in life. Food-based events and guided tours are also organized by a variety of companies, including Tasty Morsel and Porterhouse Productions.

Stretched out over a 150-acre parcel, the resort offers 217 oversized lots and personal patios for Class A motor coaches, with an area reserved for 5th wheels and Class C coaches. Individual RV sites are available for purchase or can be rented on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

Ambience is prominent here—with 12 cascading shimmering ponds, with lighted fountains and nesting blue herons, swans and ducks, adding to the charm.

Guests can enjoy the resort-style outdoor heated swimming pool, spa and state-of-the-art fitness center, as well as the croquet court, tennis court and horseshoe area. Private restrooms and showers, laundry facilities and a clubhouse with a library, computer room and planned ac-

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tivities—as well as a banquet facility with indoor seating and an outdoor patio—expand the resort's amenities. Complimentary Wi-Fi and cable TV are also available.

Of special note are the daily shuttles to nearby Turtle Creek Casino, complimentary cruiser-style bicycle and tandem rentals, and on-site washing, waxing and detailing services for motor coaches.

Vacation Station RV Resort
4895 West U.S. 10, Ludington
(800) 499-1060
vacationstationrvpark.com

Ludington is one of Michigan's premier harbor towns, and this luxury resort can be found just minutes from the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Motor coaches, travel trailers, fifth-wheels and park models are welcome in this 155 unit park, which also offers a handful of rental cottages—with full hook-ups including water, disposal, 20/30/50-amp electrical service, cable TV and wireless Internet.

Entering the complex on the paved, lighted, winding road, visitors will find the clubhouse and community center known as the "Roundhouse"—which overlooks a private fishing pond. A secluded area of the resort is even reserved for seasonal guests.

A heated pool and spa, enclosed pet run, fire pits, snack bar and convenience store, playground, 24-hour restrooms and showers, game room and laundry facilities are among the amenities. Paddle boats and bike rentals are also available.

Within a short drive from the park, explore some of Michigan's finest off-road trails for ATVs, ORVs and dirt bikes. Paddling and fishing on inland lakes, rivers and Lake Michigan are also popular activities. Historic White Pine Village is a great multi-generational attraction. Ludington is also the home port to the Lake Michigan Car ferry, the SS Badger, which travels the lake to Manitowoc, WI, each day (May through October).

Vista Green RV Resort
6100 Larson Rd., South Boardman (Traverse City)
(231) 369-3400
vistagreenrvresort.com

This adult-oriented RV resort offers something for everyone when it comes to rest, relaxation and recreating! Set in a secluded area south-east of downtown Traverse City, the property welcomes a variety of RVs—5th wheels, Class A and C—that are newer than 10 years old and at least 24 feet in length. All sites offer 100-amp service, water/sewer, wireless Internet, cable television and telephone access.

A new 10,000-square-foot activity center (under construction) welcomes visitors. Other amenities include a swimming pool and hot tubs, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, shuffleboard, card and game rooms, a fitness center, laundry facility and library.

A handful of historic lighthouses can also be found in the region—at the tip of both the Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsulas. Several vintage movie theaters can also be found in the area—including those in downtown Traverse City, Suttons Bay and Frankfort. Visitors can even find a nostalgic drive-in theater in the nearby Benzie County community of Honor, where double features provide hours of family entertainment each evening.

Those looking to explore the Traverse City area's recreational treasures should head out on the Boardman River for a day of fishing or paddling. Or, take to the TART trail for hiking or biking. A day trip to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore should not be overlooked. □

For more about Michigan's camping and recreational vehicle lifestyle, check out these organizations and websites:

Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds – Michigan
MichCampgrounds.com

Michigan Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds
MARVAC.org

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan.gov/DNARD

Pure Michigan
Michigan.org