

# Central UP Trip - KM and DB

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# Day 5 - Manisitique

# Restaurants and Attractions

## Restaurants

- Emerald City Tacos **(GF)**
- The Grind Coffee House
- Mona & Co
- **\*\*Clyde's Drive In (GF)**
- Upper Crust Cafe, Bakery, and Deli **(GF)**
- Cedar Street Cafe **(GF)**

## Attractions

- Kitch-iti-Kipi (Big Springs)
- \*Manistique Boardwalk
- \*Historic Manistique Water Tower (Downtown)
- Manistique East Breakwater Lighthouse
- Living Waters Memorial Fountain (Downtown - Triangle Park)
- Benny the Beard Fisher (M-77, Germfask)
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery
- Rainey Wildlife Area (Not in Manistique)
- **\*\*Seul Choix Point Lighthouse (Gulliver - on the way home)**
- Seney National Wildlife Refuge (Seney)
- \*Pavilion
- Car Ferry Dock
- \*Paul Bunyan Statue
- East Breakwater Lighthouse
- **\*\*Fayette State Park\*\***

Day 5 - Manistique

# Kitch-iti-kipi

<https://www.uptravel.com/things-to-do/attractions/kitch-iti-kipi/>

Inside of Palms Book State Park - 15 minutes North of Manistique on M-149

Need an annual MI Recreation Passport (on KM's car)

Park is open from 8a until dusk daily.

Plan to spend at least 2 hours to take in everything.

There is a 100-ft-long trail!

A singular raft is boarded at the dock. It's FREE and crank-propelled. The raft is COVERED.

Concessions and modern restrooms are off to the side.

**WORTH THE WAIT IN LINE**

Day 1 - St. Ignace, Sault Ste.  
Marie and Whitefish Point

Day 1 - St. Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie and Whitefish Point

# Sault Ste Marie

## Soo Locks

\*Walk the Locks Park Walkway along the water.\*

Soo Locks & Observation Deck - FREE

Soo Locks visitor Center is open May 1 - October 31 daily; 10a-7p; located near the entryway into the park

call 906-202-1333 to find out when the next ship will pass through or check:

<https://saultstemarie.com/things-to-do/finding-freighters/>

Fall color update: <https://saultstemarie.com/fall-color-update/>

Soo Locks Boat Tour (2 hours through the locks) - <https://www.originalsoolocktours.com/> - \$30/person; 10a, 1p, 3:30p typically; rain or shine, 7 days/week; 2 hours-ish; will cancel for less than 15 passengers; not guaranteed to ride with a freighter; all departures are from dock #1 (1157 East Portage Ave) - \*\*Refunds for unused tickets!

Tower of History for a bird's eye view

Shopping at The Mole Hole, Island Books & Crafts, The Little Gift Shop, Mocs Du Locke, Ozone of the North (smoke shop), Madam Michelle's Metaphysical Emporium

GF food: Karl's Cuisine, The Wicked Sister, Lockview Restaurant

Day 1 - St. Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie and Whitefish Point

# St. Ignace/Castle Rock

## St. Ignace

Museum of Ojibwa Culture and Gift Shop - National Historic Landmark!

## Hours

### ***Memorial Weekend to Late June***

Mon-Sat 9:30 to 5:30

Sunday 10:00 to 5:00

### ***Late June to Labor Day***

Open Daily 9:30 to 8:00

### ***Labor Day to October 31st***

Open Daily 10:00 to 5:00

## Admission

By Donation

500 N. State St

St. Ignace, MI 49781

906-643-9161

***Looks very small!***

## Castle Rock

I-75: Exit 348; 3 miles North of St. Ignace

N2690 Castle Rock Rd. St. Ignace, MI. 49781 - 906-643-8268

Rises 200' above the surrounding area!

Photo op with Paul Bunyan and Babe the blue ox.

Souvenir Barn!

Open daily, starting at 9a. Family and pet friendly!

Day 1 - St. Ignace, Sault Ste. Marie and Whitefish Point

# Whitefish Point

Paradise, MI

**HOTEL CONFIRMED:** Paradise Inn & Suites: 8359 N Whitefish Point Rd, Paradise, MI 49768

## Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum -

<https://shipwreckmuseum.com/visit/whitefish-point-light/>

- open daily from 5/01 - 10/31; 9a-5p
- 18335 N. Whitefish Point Rd, Paradise, MI 49768
- Adults \$15/person
- self-guided tour

## Whitefish Point Light Station + beach driftwood scenes

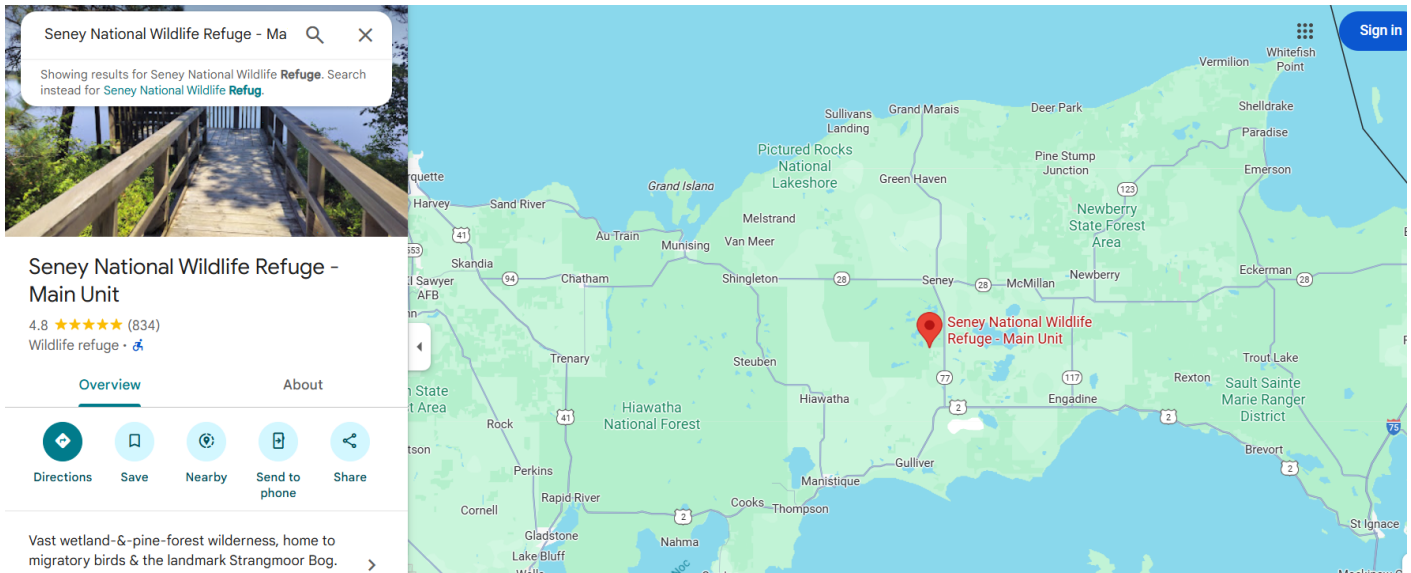
- the oldest operating lighthouse on Lake Superior
- same address, set up like a compound
- Merch: <https://shipwreckmuseum.com/product-category/apparel/>
- More Merch: <https://shipwreckmuseum.com/product-category/whitefish-point-souvenirs/>

## Seney National Wildlife Refuge

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/seney/visit-us/activities/auto-tour>

Address: 1674 Refuge Entrance Rd, Seney, MI 49883

Temporary Visitor Center/Office: 1986 River Road Seney, MI 49883-9509



## Marshland Wildlife Drive and Fishing Loop Vehicle Restrictions

The Marshland Wildlife Drive (7 miles) and Fishing Loop (8.5 miles) are one-way, narrow, winding roads. These roads are not appropriate for all vehicles. Size restrictions are:

- Vehicles over 28 feet are not allowed on the drive.
- If your wheelbase is over 234 inches you will not be able to make the turns.
- Turning radius needs to be 45 degrees.
- Vehicle width cannot exceed 9 feet.
- We trim trees to ensure that there is an 11 foot clearance along the drive, if your vehicle is taller you should not take the drive.

### Marshland Wildlife Drive

Enjoy a drive through the refuge. This seven-mile, one-way, auto tour route is open from May 15 to Oct. 20 from dawn to dusk and takes visitors through wetlands and forests. Three observation decks and numerous pools make this drive a great wildlife watching opportunity. The tour route does not accommodate large recreational vehicles. Common sites on the driving tour include common loons, trumpeter swans, muskrat, beaver, ring-necked ducks, sandhill cranes, bald eagles, osprey and many other species.

### Fishing Loop

The Fishing Loop is an optional 3.5-mile add on to the Marshland Wildlife Drive. Although you bypass about 1 mile of the Marshland Wildlife Drive the Fishing Loop offers visitors a more diverse view of the landscape. It is a wonderful place to watch for painted and snapping turtles, beaver, muskrat, sandhill cranes, secretive marsh birds like the American bittern, sora and Virginia rail, sharp-tailed grouse, osprey and numerous other animals. Open May 15 to Sept. 30. In Oct. the loop is closed to pedestrian traffic, as well as vehicles, to allow migrating birds a safe, quiet place to rest and refuel during their fall migration.

## Star gazing: Muskallonge Lake State Park

### Food

- Brown Fisheries Fish House (GF options): 32638 W M28 Paradise, MI 49768 - **CASH ONLY**
- Wheelhouse Diner & Goatlocker Saloon (GF options)

# Day 6 - Boyne Mountain and Crystal Mountain

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# Boyne Mountain

Scenic Chairlift Rides: \$15/person - <https://shop.boynemountain.com/l/activities/p/scenic-chair-ride>

<https://www.boynemountain.com/summer-activities/scenic-chairlift-rides>

Do NOT have to purchase in advance.

## Chairlift Hours

Weather Permitting

**June 26-October 2**

Daily: 10am-8pm

**October 3-October 16**

Monday-Thursday: 10am-8pm, Friday-Sunday: 9am-8pm

**October 17-October 23**

Monday-Thursday: 10am-5pm, Friday-Sunday: 9am-8pm

**October 24-26**

Friday & Saturday: 10am-6pm, Sunday: 10am-5pm

# Day 2 - Munising

Day 2 - Munising

# Munising

**MUNISING:** <https://www.munising.org/>

**\*\*\*\*\*GRAND MARAIS TO MUNISING: THE FIFTY MILES OF HEAVEN TRAVELING COUNTRY ROAD H-58 IS ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC IN MICHIGAN - along pictured rocks lakeshore**

**Point Iroquois Light Station** - 20 miles West of Sault Ste Marie and 51 miles East of Tahquamenon Falls

## Overview of the Tahquamenon Scenic Byway

Depending on which direction you're coming from, the scenic portion of M-123 begins in Newberry and ends in Eckerman, both at M-28. This unusually U-shaped, 63-mile highway makes a uniquely remarkable journey.

SCENIC DRIVE: M-123 to H58; scenic and winding! <https://www.awesomemitten.com/m123-tahquamenon-scenic-byway/>

**BEGIN** your M-123 road trip in Newberry!

### Hamilton Lake Natural Area

After enjoying a dose of history and culture, head south on the Tahquamenon Scenic Byway toward the Hamilton Lake Natural Area. This remote natural area is perfect for anyone who wants to get away from it all while simultaneously experiencing the untouched beauty of the Upper Peninsula.

The glistening Hamilton Lake is surrounded by flowers and wildlife, so don't forget to stop by the scenic overlook to take a picture with the water in the background. It's one of the best photo spots of the road trip.

### Crisp Point Lighthouse

If you're embarking on a summer road trip on M-123, you must include time to venture north to [Crisp Point Lighthouse](#), too. Known as one of the most isolated and remote lighthouses in the Upper Peninsula, it was inaccessible until 1999, when a road was built to connect M-123 to the light tower.

### Curley Lewis Memorial Highway

Heading east from the Tahquamenon Scenic Byway, driving the Curley Lewis Memorial Highway is almost like taking a vacation from your vacation. It's another scenic roadway that you must drive if you want to experience the incredible Lake Superior shoreline.

With a few slight curves and hills, the highway is known as a gentle stretch of road that will take you to various points of interest, including the Point Iroquois Lighthouse and the Mission Hill Overlook.

## Point Iroquois Lighthouse

In the final stretch of your M-123 road trip, you have the opportunity to stop at [Point Iroquois Lighthouse](#). This stately tower was first built in 1855, and for more than 107 years, it allowed fishermen and shippers on the water to navigate their way safely around the rocky shores.

Today, it's a historical destination that has been lovingly restored. Travelers to the area are invited to learn more about the role that this lighthouse played and to climb to the top of the tower to enjoy the panoramic views.

- **Gnoozhekaaning (Bay Mills Indian Community) exhibit:** Closed for renovations in 2025
- **FS Maritime Museum and ENFIA outlet:** Tuesday through Saturday 11am-4pm
- **Tower:** Tuesday- Saturday 11am-4pm
- **Operating season:** June 10th through October 17th
- **Public Restrooms:** May 24th through October 18th
- Directions

From the intersection of M-28 and I-75 drive 7.5 miles west on M-28 to M-221/ Brimley. Turn right (north) and drive 2.5 miles on M-221 to Lake Shore Drive (FR 42). Turn left (west) on Lake Shore Drive and drive 6.5 miles to the lighthouse.

### **GPS Coordinates**

Latitude: 46.484405

Longitude: -84.630429

## Front Range Lighthouse

## Grand Island Harbor Scenic Turnout

## The Curtains Ice Climbing Area

## Glass Bottom Shipwreck Tours

<https://shipwrecktours.com/>

<https://shipwrecktours.com/schedule-rates/>

(Schedule and rates are subject to change without notice)

**Buying tickets early is highly recommended as space is limited.**

**Tours run 7 Days a week, rain or shine from Memorial Day weekend to September 30th.**

**Wheel/power chair, accessible tours depart at 10AM, 1PM & 4PM on the Shipwreck Express.**

Tour Season 2025

### **Eastern Standard Time**

- **Memorial Weekend, May 24 & 25: 10am,1pm,4pm**
- **May 26 - June 20: 10am & 1pm**
- **June 21 - June 30: 10am, 11:30am,1pm, 2:30pm. (4pm added June 23rd.)**
- **July 1 - August 17: 10am, 11:30am,1pm, 2:30pm, 4pm**
- **August 18 - August 30: 10am,1pm 4pm**
- **Labor Day Weekend: 10am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm, 4pm**
- **Sept 1- Sept 30: 10am & 1pm**

Daily Tours

**Fully narrated, educational and entertaining, two hour tour explores two historical shipwrecks, the Bermuda (sank 1870) and Herman H. Hettler (sank 1926). Cruise by Grand Islands' East Channel Lighthouse (constructed 1867) and colorful rock cliffs, caves, beaches and pristine wilderness. And let's face it, looking through a glass bottom boat is just cool!**

**Munising Falls Hike! 0.4mi - CLOSED due to paved trail being washed out**

**Hikes:** <https://www.nps.gov/piro/planyourvisit/hikes.htm>

**Miners Falls Trail 1.2mi** - 2.0 miles round trip

**sand Point Marsh Trail - 0.5 mi loop** - go early or late in the day for wildlife activity; see the wetlands

**Wagner Falls** - serene and overlooked

**Miner's Castle** - The ONLY cliff area accessible by vehicle. 200-1300 ft one way. 3 different viewing platforms. <https://www.munising.org/activities/miners-castle-overlook/>

**Grand Island Boat Tour** - <https://riptide.com/>

## Food

- \*\*Tracey's!
- Falling Rock Cafe (GF breads and soups)
- Pictured Rocks Pizza (GF)
- Driftwood Deli (GF)
- Falling Rock Cafe and Bookstore
- Tacopotamus (GF) - Food Truck - [https://www.facebook.com/JavierTheHungryHippo/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/JavierTheHungryHippo/?ref=page_internal)
- Eh! Burger (GF)
- Border Grill
- The Dogpatch Restaurant
- Foggy's Steakhouse and Lounge
- Buckhorn Resort Restuarant
- rollin' Smoke BBQ - Food Truck - <https://www.facebook.com/RSBUP/>
- 

## Shopping

- Open Wings Pottery & Down Win sports?

HOTEL: <https://www.munising.org/stay/>

Day 2 - Munising

# Tahquamenon Falls

<http://www.shorelinevisitorsguide.com/select-michigan-state-park-maps-and-guides/tahquamenon-falls-state-park/>

AT LEAST 4 HOURS AT THE FALLS!

It is open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, all year round. To access the park, you will need a current Michigan Recreation Passport for residents or non-residents.

Tahquamenon Falls is a 77.5-mile (1.5-hour) drive from Grand Marais and an 88.3-mile drive (just over 1.5 hours) from Munising, the two gateways to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

## Directions

Tahquamenon Falls State Park Upper Parking Lot!

Tahquamenon (Tah-kwa-me-non) Falls State Park is located at (LOWER FALLS) 41382 W. M-123, Paradise. There is also an entrance to the park on M-123 in Newberry. GPS: 46.610734,-85.206323

Upper Falls^^ (Construction on viewing platform set to wrap on 10/01/25 but all three other platforms are open and available.)

## Tahquamenon Upper Falls

The Upper Falls at Tahquamenon is the park's premier attraction. The beautiful waterfall is 200 feet wide and drops 50 feet into the river below. The water is an interesting brown color that churns into a rainbow hue of mahoganies and tans.

The color comes from tannins leached from the surrounding cedar and hemlock trees and is not, as some jokingly claim, the run-off from a nearby root beer factory. **This is why you'll sometimes hear this waterfall called Root Beer Falls.**

To reach the Upper Falls viewing area, simply walk about ¼ mile to reach the overlook. This is a great spot to snap some photos of the falls.

If you want a closer look, heading to the brink viewing platform is a great idea, just be prepared for steps! You'll need to climb down 93 of them. If you want an even closer look, you can climb down another 112 steps to reach the river. Beautiful!

\*To reach the Upper Falls, walk a short distance from the parking lot and follow the ⅓-mile ADA-accessible paved path and boardwalk to the viewing area. For a closer look at the brink, you will

need to descend 94 steps. From the paved path, you also can take a right at the fork and descend 116 steps to the base of the gorge. A long boardwalk path takes you to a viewing area that gives you the most direct view of the falls.\*

## Tahquamenon Lower Falls

Although the Upper Tahquamenon Falls is the larger and more famous cascade, the Lower Tahquamenon Falls are absolutely worth a visit.

These falls are actually a series of five waterfalls surrounding a small island, creating a tranquil and picturesque scene.

The Lower Falls viewing area receives fewer visitors than the Upper Falls—perfect if you don't fancy crowds! Take a look at the falls from the different viewing platforms. Walk along the boardwalk to get to one of the prettiest viewing points: a platform at the edge of the trees.

There is now a footbridge to the island! A 0.4-mile, ADA-accessible path from the parking lot takes you to viewing areas along the river bank. A 143-foot, universally accessible pedestrian bridge offers beautiful views of the falls and Tahquamenon River. Once on the island, you can take an ADA-accessible boardwalk around the island for close-up views of the falls. There are also ADA-accessible restrooms and a concession store are also at this site. The lower falls has an excellent .75 mile boardwalk to the viewing platforms and a little island you can walk around to take in the sights. I believe they are still working on the upper falls viewing platform so that's a 100-step staircase down/up to view them.

Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Pub

Camp 33 Gift Shop

## What Else Is There To Do Near Tahquamenon Falls?

One of the best ways to enjoy the beauties of Upper Peninsula Michigan is with a road trip!

### Head down the M-123 **Tahquamenon Scenic Byway**.

Continue along Lake Superior to visit Crisp Point Lighthouse, one of the most beautiful lighthouses in Michigan State.

**Crisp Point Lighthouse**: 1944 Co Hwy 412, Newberry, MI 49868

Tahquamenon Falls-Nature Trail: 0.5mi - A half-mile, forested trail offering an alternative route from the Upper Falls viewing area back to the parking lot. The trail is groomed for cross-country skiing and integrated into the park's lantern-lit winter trail program. The Nature Trail provides an alternative half-mile route from the Upper Falls viewing area back to the parking lot. This forested

trail features excellent birding during spring migration and is carpeted with ferns during the summer. The Nature Trail is integrated into the lantern-lit cross-country ski and snowshoe program typically offered every Saturday in February.

Dark sky park is great here too!

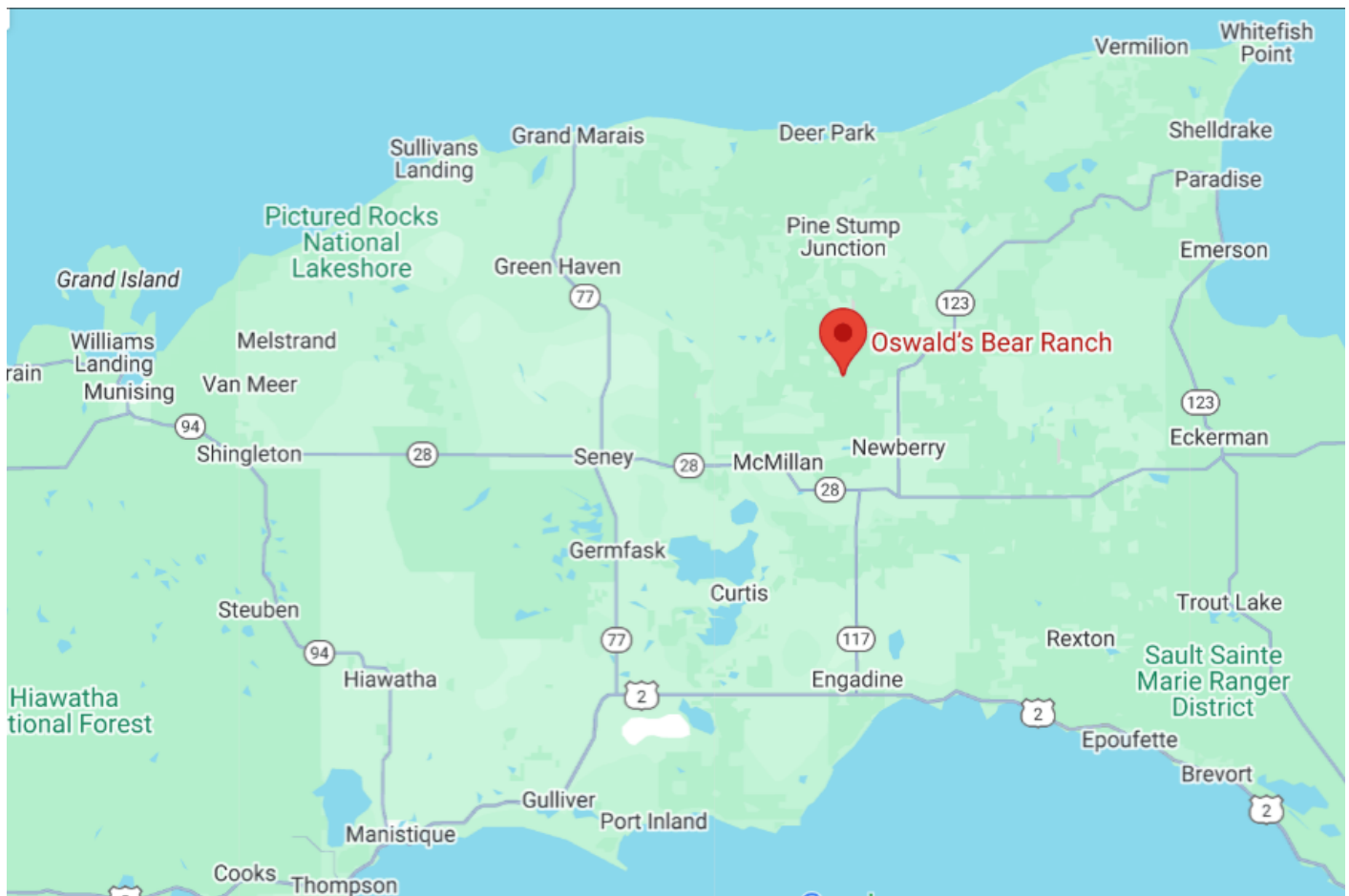
## Oswald's Bear Ranch

<https://www.oswaldsbearranch.com/>

Open from Memorial Day through October 10th. \$30/car. 9a-5p

Pictures with cubs \$10/group

Mixed reviewed on morality.



Day 2 - Munising

# Grand Marais

**Pickel Barrel House**

**Harbor of Refuge - Inner and Outer Lighthouse**

# Fun Odds and Ends

# Random Stops

**Sault St Marie** – We had dogs with us so we didn't take in all the sights, but if you get some time, drive over to Clyde's Drive In for some lunch and eat it in Rotary Park – you're bound to see the freighters coming in from the river. Take the Lake Superior Coastal Drive when you leave and you'll see several places to stop and take in the beauty on your way to Paradise/Whitefish Point (including Point Iroquois).

**Paradise** – Obviously, Tahquamenon Falls – the lower falls has an excellent .75 mile boardwalk to the viewing platforms and a little island you can walk around to take in the sights. I believe they are still working on the upper falls viewing platform so that's a 100-step staircase down/up to view them. Whitefish Point has some great views along with the shipwreck museum and light station.

**Munising** – National Lakeshore & Pictured Rocks. There are plenty of places to see some of those sights on foot, but your best bet is to take the boat tour where they take you up close and personal, explaining all the formations. It's well worth the cost if the weather is good.

**Manistique** – Our latest trip was the first time we'd been to Manistique. The town itself is small but Indian Lake State Park had some nice trails if you're up for an easy-moderate hike. I would HIGHLY recommend taking the drive to Fayette Historic State Park (photo attached). The abandoned town has been preserved and well maintained, and you can go in most of the old buildings. There are some small easy hikes there too and we saw several deer while hiking.

# Day 3 - Pictured Rocks and Other Stuff

Day 3 - Pictured Rocks and Other Stuff

# Pictured Rocks

## PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE - FEDERAL LANDS PASS REQUIRED (KM HAS THIS)

100 City Park Dr, Munising, MI 49862 - USE THIS ADDRESS FOR THE BOAT TOURS!

Boat Tour: <https://picturedrocks.com/>

- PRE PURCHASE TICKETS: <https://picturedrocks.com/fares-schedule/> - COMPLETE!
- SPRAY FALLS FOR SURE: Sunset is most popular
- FAQs about the boat tours: <https://picturedrocks.com/our-stories/everything-you-need-to-know-about-pictured-rocks-cruises/>

Waterfalls: <https://www.nps.gov/piro/planyourvisit/waterfalls.htm>

Another boat tour option: <https://riptide.com/>

More boat tour options: <https://www.munising.org/water-activities/boat-tours/>

## Getting to Pictured Rocks

**Please note, if you are using Google Maps to navigate to the park, please use "Munising Falls Visitor Center", or "1505 Sand Point Road, Munising MI" as your routing point! Using "Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore" will NOT bring you to a visitor center!**

GET A MAP AT THE WELCOME CENTER - GPS DOESN'T WORK!

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is located on the south shore of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, between the communities of Munising (west) and Grand Marais (east). The main park [visitor center](#) is located in Munising at Munising Falls.

Michigan state highways M-28 and M-94 lead to Munising. State highway M-77 leads to Grand Marais. Alger County Road H-58 and other spur roads (some unpaved) provide [access](#) throughout the lakeshore. Many roads are closed by snow during the winter. [See winter road closure page](#) for more information.

## Getting Around Pictured Rocks

The main road that travels through the national lakeshore is Alger County Road H-58. Other access roads (some unpaved) that lead to lakeshore sites such as campgrounds, day use areas, scenic views, and trailheads are clearly marked on the park map. **Please stay on H-58 and these official roads.**

(For winter road closure information click [here](#).)

Avoid narrow dirt roads, two-tracks, and potential dead end roads where you might get stuck, resulting in very costly towing fees. **Use the [park map](#) instead of relying on GPS, Google Maps, or other apps which do not work well here.**

H-58 is suitable for vehicles of all sizes. Some park roads have size restrictions and others are not recommended for large recreational vehicles, busses, and vehicles with trailers.

## Dark sky park is amazing near Pictured Rocks!

# Other Things!

## 8. Drive the Scenic Byways

Justin and I spent a whole afternoon cruising the H-58, and wow - what a drive! While you can stop at places like Miners Castle and the Log Slide overlook, there are many scenic overlooks as you approach Grand Marais. Plus Grand Marais even has a brewery to celebrate the drive that we have pinned in our [Michigan Google Map](#). We hit the jackpot timing our visit during peak fall colors in late September - the contrast between the red and yellow leaves against those blue waters was unreal.

### #8 M-22 from Leelanau Peninsula to Manistee

This scenic highway stretches 116 miles along Lake Michigan and boasts some of the most gorgeous spots in the state! The drive winds through charming small towns and beautiful farmland, but for the most scenic adventure, you have to make sure to pencil in a few stops along the way! As you make your way from the Leelanau Peninsula to The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (there are great [hiking trails](#) here for more great views), you'll want to check out Leelanau State Park, Pyramid Point, and Empire Bluff Trail. A little farther south, in Arcadia, don't miss a stop at Inspiration Point – the highest point on the shores of Lake Michigan.

### Au Sable Light Station

stands on Au Sable Point on the south shore of Lake Superior; free, ranger-led climbs daily through the summer (11a - 4p, almost every 30 minutes); GET THERE: Drive to the Hurricane River day use area and hike the Light Station Trail (1.5 mi - FULL HIKE) to the Light Station grounds -

<https://www.nps.gov/piro/planyourvisit/au-sable.htm>

### Grand Sable Visitor Center:

E21090 County Road H-58 (Two miles west of Grand Marais, Michigan)

### Free Guided Climbs at the Au Sable Light Station

Summer lighthouse climbs and tours at the Au Sable Light Station begin on June 8th, 2025 through October 15th, 2025.

Join a ranger at 11:00 am, 11:30 am, 12:00 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:00 pm, 3:30 pm, and 4:00 pm for a guided climb up the Au Sable Light Station! Climbs are free, but spots on each tour are limited. Climbs are first-come, first served.

Guided climbs include a brief overview of the history and purpose of the Au Sable Light Station, a walk through of the Assistant Keeper's Quarters, and a climb up the 98 steps to the top of the lighthouse for a view of Lake Superior and the Grand Sable Dunes.

**Securely-strapped shoes (no flip flops, slides, or bare feet) are required to climb the lighthouse.**

This active lighthouse along Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore sits surrounded by astonishingly beautiful shoreline. Just west of [Grand Marais](#), the light's a short distance from Log Slide Overlook in one direction and from Twelve Mile Beach in the other. A 1-1/2 mile walk along the historic U.S. Coast Guard road nearby is worth the trek, with scenic overlooks of Lake Superior and paths out onto Twelve Mile Beach, the beauty only increases the closer you get to Au Sable.

## Bear Trap Inn

N7294 County Road H15Route # 1, Shingleton, MI 49884

Nestled between the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the Hiawatha National Forest, the Bear Trap Inn is a unique and family friendly restaurant and bar. Serving a full menu of delicious and plentiful food as well as a complete bar selection. Banquets and parties enjoy special attention from the crew with Frank's Prime Rib, a specialty of the house.

## Log Slide Overlook

The Log Slide is located about 11 km west of Grand Marais, Michigan. This is a must-see stop on any trip to the Pictured Rocks.

Round-trip: 1 km

Difficulty: Easy

Location: Grand Marais, MI

[Click Here for Google Map of the Route](#)

The log slide itself was a chute that loggers used to move logs from the top of the dunes down to Lake Superior to be loaded onto boats for transport. The wooden chute is no longer there, but it was said that sometimes the logs traveling down the chute would catch fire due to the friction from the sand and wood, as well as the heat of the sun.

From Grand Marais, Michigan take county road H-58, for 11 km then turn onto Log Slide Road for about 1 km to the parking area.

From the parking area, it is about 600m to the overlook. The trail is fully accessible and leads through mature hardwoods to an old log landing at the former site of the Log Slide. Interpretive displays provide information on the dune formations and logging history of the area.

From the overlook platform, you can see the [Au Sable Lighthouse](#) to the West and the [Grand Sable Dunes](#) to the East.

## Enjoy the sunset at Sandpoint Beach

During the day this gorgeous beach comes alive with activity from early morning kayakers to vacationers looking for a beautiful place to nap. At night, the beach clears out giving you plenty of space to set up camp for the sunset. Each night the sun cascades beautiful hues of pinks and oranges as it sets behind Grand Island and the shoreline. The beach offers an unobstructed view of the beauty.

## See the Munising Falls

This is a quick but unique stop! A short, 800 ft. hike (one-way) through sandstone canyons takes you to the 50-ft. Munising Falls. There are two viewing platforms and dogs are welcome to come along too. Visitors also recommend visiting this spot in the fall and winter for the gorgeous scenery.

## Visit Grand Island

Just a tad larger than Manhattan, Grand Island is home to scenic overlooks, beautiful beaches, hiking/biking trails, and miles of untouched wilderness. There are a couple of ways you can explore its beauty.

First, hop on the Grand Island Interpretive Bus tour which covers the island's history while checking out beautiful vistas and wildlife. The tour is available from May - October and is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children, reservations are recommended.

If you'd rather explore on your own, grab your bike, kayak, hiking shoes and hop on the ferry, and go! There are over 40 miles of trails throughout the island including the 20-mile island perimeter. If you're not opposed to the cold and are a little fearless (actually a lot fearless!), in the winter trek across the frozen Lake Superior to see the incredible ice caves that form along Grand Island.

[The ferry](#) to the island runs from Memorial Day - Mid-October and tickets are \$23 for adults and \$15 for children.

## Check out Grand Sable Dunes

These enormous dunes rise 300 feet above Lake Superior and stretch for five miles along the Pictured Rocks Lakeshore! They are one of two examples of perched dunes in Michigan (the other is Sleeping Bear Dunes). Because the ecosystem of the dunes is fragile, you can't explore everywhere. The best place to start is at The Sable Falls parking lot and take the short Grand Sable Dunes Trail, which offers sweeping views.

# Day 4 - Marquette

Day 4 - Marquette

# On the way!

## Every scenic turnout we see!

### \*Scott Falls

### \*Laughing Whitefish Falls

Start at Travel Marquette, head east on W Washington St. and turn right onto S Front St.

- At the traffic circle, stay on S Front as it becomes US-41S.
- In 1.6 miles, turn left onto M-28 E and continue for 38 miles to Munising.

### Head West for Wonder

If you're looking to spend a crisp fall day cruising around the county with a cup of coffee, just head west for prime color viewing. The color change typically occurs first in the west making the drive through [Negaunee and Ishpeming](#) full of fall foliage.

- Start at Travel Marquette, head east on Washington St., turn right onto S Front St.
- At the traffic circle, stay on S Front St. as it becomes US-41 S. In about 6.1 miles, turn right onto Cherry Creek Rd. and turn right on 480.
- Head west for about 18 miles to M-28 in Negaunee and Ishpeming to US-41.

### [CR 510 Bridge](#)

With a brief but beautiful drive up US-41, this view requires limited effort for an incredible experience. Park your car to peep the glorious green and auburn leaves overlooking the old steel bridge over the Dead River, and take a minute to snap some gorgeous pictures.

## Lakenland Sculpture Park

<https://lakenland.com/>

**2800 E State Highway M28, Marquette, MI 49822**

Welcome to one of the most beloved attractions in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Tom Lakenen's **Lakenland Sculpture Park**. Tom invites you to stop by and see, for yourself, why the Detroit

Free Press called Lakenenland, "The coolest unofficial roadside rest stop in the state." His 37 acre park includes a Sculpture Trail, a winding road through the woods featuring more than 100 of Tom's whimsical, colorful and sometimes "tell it like it is" Metal Art sculptures showcasing his tremendous talent for turning junk metal and scrap iron into awe inspiring, entertaining works of art.

In addition to the Sculpture Trail, Lakenenland also features:

- A bog walk
- A massive timbered framed pavilion  
(with the coolest table and fireplace you've ever seen)
- A picnic ground
- Two entertainment stages
- A playground for the kids
- Two fishing ponds
- A brand new timbered "T Shirt shack"
- Direct access to the North Country Trail

And, best of all, Lakenenland is free of charge and open 24 hours a day, seven days a week!

So pass the word and tell your friends near and far, "Don't miss this place!"

## **Eben Ice Caves/Rock River Canyon Ice Caves**

Located in the Rock River Wilderness area of the Hiawatha National Forest

There is an Eben Ice Caves Trail that takes about 30-60 minutes. Might want micro spikes on boots, depending on the time of year.

<https://mikelbclassen.com/eben-ice-caves-alger-county-michigan/>

### **Here's How to Get There**

Set your GPS for Eben Junction (or use Google Maps to find it). From M-94 in Eben Junction, turn north onto Eben Road and drive about 1.5 miles to Frey Road. Turn right on Frey Road and drive to the end (if you can) or if it's a busy day just find a spot to park along the road. It's not unusual to see fifty or more cars parked here on a nice weekend day. Also, Eben Road and Frey Road have yellow signs on them that say "Ice Caves," so keep an eye out for those.

### **Plan for the Hike to the Caves**

This isn't an attraction where you can pull up in your car, walk a few feet and be done. It's not a long hike, but yes, you will have to get out and stretch your legs. And for the pet owners out there, the area is pet-friendly. Each time I've visited the ice caves I've seen more than a few dogs on the trail.

The hike from the parking area to the ice caves is about .75 miles. The first .25 mile stretch is a very flat walk through a farmer's field. The landowners allow people like you and me to pass through the field at no charge. If they ever stopped allowing this, the hike to the ice caves would be *much* longer. In addition, the landowners now offer portable bathrooms in the parking area at no charge. Show your thanks by purchasing a hot beverage or a snack at their concession stand if you're able!

## Use Ice Cleats

After a foot of snow got dumped on the area just two days before my recent visit, I asked a friend who lives in nearby Chatam if I should bring snowshoes. "It's never a bad idea to bring the shoes," he said, "but I'm guessing it'll be packed down by then." He was right. Snowshoes would have only made the hike more difficult. So if you have them, bring them in case you happen to visit right after a big snowstorm. Otherwise, wear ice cleats.

Ice cleats (I like Yaktrax, but any of them should help!) can go a long way toward enhancing your Eben Ice Caves experience. Trust me. On any given day, about half the people visiting the caves are wearing cleats, and the other half wish they had them. The main reason is that, with ice cleats, you're able to walk around inside the ice caves on relatively sure footing. And without them, it's a little treacherous. The ice inside the caves is very smooth so traditional rubber boots tend to slide around quite a bit.

But another reason to wear cleats is that the trail out to the caves has some steep ups and downs. You'll see many spots where people slide down hills on their bottoms and then struggle to get up the other side. In short, if you're wearing cleats (like myself and my cohorts were on our last outing) you'll be able to walk right up and down those slippery spots. On my last visit, a college-aged girl looked a little stunned as I walked right by her on a slippery hill and said, "Oh, so that's what it's like when you have traction." Okay, enough about the ice cleats. You get the point!

All in all it's a bit of a trek to the ice caves, but I'd highly recommend checking them out! As far as Michigan ice caves go, these are the most accessible.

Nineteen miles southwest of Munising on M-94 or 29 miles southeast of Marquette in Alger County is Eben Junction. As the name implies, it is little more than a crossroads with a few homes clustered nearby. The attraction of the caves is known by all of the locals and they are willing to give directions to the exact location. There is both a bar and a store on the corner and the people in each place are friendly and informative. To get there, turn north from this corner and go about a mile and a half to where the road turns 90 degrees right. Go around this and follow the road another half-mile until the next 90 degree turn and park. You will be facing an open pasture. There is a parking space here with signs pointing the way.

Day 4 - Marquette

# To Do

## **Marquette Harbor Lighthouse**

300 N Lakeshore Blvd, Marquette, MI 49855

<https://mqtmaritimemuseum.com/marquette-lighthouse>

### **Lighthouse Tour Information**

- All tours must be escorted by museum staff/volunteer
- Tours leave from museum entrance
- Walking tour - must be able to climb 45 steps
- Tour consists of history of Lighthouse Park, Coast Guard, two floors of lighthouse, and catwalk.
- The Lighthouse restoration process is ongoing. The second floor is the latest restoration.
- Tours do not run in inclement weather
- Tour lasts approximately one hour
- All visitors must stay with the tour guide at all times

Tour Times: 11:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 2:30 pm, Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays)

Marquette Maritime Museum and Marquette Harbor Lighthouse

are open MAY 13 through OCTOBER 8, 11:00am to 4:00pm,

Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays).

Call ahead to reserve lighthouse tour tickets (906) 226-2006.

Purchase tickets at the Museum ticket counter. Tours leave from Museum Building.

Museum Tickets - \$10/adult; \$8/seniors

Lighthouse Tickets - \$10/adult; \$8/seniors

Both Tickets - \$18/adult; \$15/seniors

## **Marquette Maritime Museum**

300 Lake Shore Bld, Marquette, MI 49855

<https://mqtmaritimemuseum.com/plan-your-visit>

# Plan Your Visit

Marquette Maritime Museum and Marquette Harbor Lighthouse are open MAY 13 through OCTOBER 8, 11:00am to 4:00pm, Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays).

Call ahead to reserve lighthouse tour tickets (906) 226-2006.

Purchase tickets at the Museum ticket counter. Tours leave from Museum Building.

## Warner Falls

GPS: 46.43333, -87.59888

**Drive:** 16 mi, 22 min (from downtown Marquette)

**Drop:** 20 ft

[Warner Falls](#) is located just outside of Palmer, 20 miles southwest of Marquette on M-35. While this waterfall can be viewed from the highway, it's best appreciated from a closer vantage point. Park your car past the guard point (fully off of the road), and follow the signage to the trails to see this small but mighty fall among autumn's glorious orange and gold foliage.

### Directions:

- Head south on Front St (0.339 mi)
- At the traffic circle exit west on US-41 N (0.523 mi)
- At the next traffic circle, take the third exit onto Grove St (2.21 mi)
- Turn left onto Co Rd 492 (4.33 mi) → Turn left on M-35 South (8.16 mi) → Park on the right side of M-35, the falls are a short trail hike west



## Rare Earth Goods & Café

A hidden gem in the heart of Ishpeming. The café pulls double duty as an art co-op and features organic foods, local art, and craft beer alongside your favorite caffeinated beverages.

Address: 200 E Division St, Ishpeming, MI 49849

## Old Town Negaunee

You'll find skeletal remains of a once-bustling mining town with nature reclaiming streets, stairwells, and sidewalks that lead to nowhere.

Address: Negaunee Downtown Historic District, Negaunee, MI; Between Peck St and Rail St AND Tobin St and North Teal Lake Ave)

## Old Catholic Cemetery

Little more than a sign and a path in the woods now since most of the tombstones were removed in the early 1900s. However, not all the bodies were found, and neighbors have reported commotion in the area.

Address: Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, 1400 Wright St, Marquette, MI 49855

## Jilbert Dairy

200 Meeske Ave, Marquette, MI 49855

## Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook

County Road 510, Big Bay, MI 49808

This popular vista point is only minutes from downtown Big Bay. From Marquette, take CR 550 approximately 23 miles, then turn left onto CR 510, and in a mile, the entrance will be on the right. This one-mile ADA-accessible trail offers excellent views of Big Bay, Lake Superior, and on a clear day, the Keweenaw Peninsula. Amenities include on-site toilets near the parking lot, and railings and benches along the path. As you walk along the wide trail, keep an eye out for informational posts describing the local wildlife and plants. Thomas Rock is a nice hike for visitors of most skill

levels, as it offers a fun and easy excursion. Family-friendly. Dog-friendly.

## Top of the World Scenic Overlook

A scenic overlook where the view is too good not to share! It's also easy to get to if you don't have a lot of time for a long hike. To get there, head out to Harlow Lake via 550 from Marquette. Turn down Harlow Lake Road and drive up the steep dirt road until you see a parking area and trailhead on your right. You can only do this drive in the warmer months because at some point in the winter the road will not be plowed. Once you park, it's a short uphill climb to two huge rock outcroppings with unobstructed views all the way down to Lake Superior. You can see Little Presque Isle, Hogsback Mountain, Sugarloaf Mountain from up here too. Little Fern has made the trek several times and has yet to see the view. We'll have to remedy that one day!

## Echo Lake

**Echo Lake** must be a well-kept secret because we rarely see anyone else out on the trails. This 480-acre Nature Conservancy property is just past Harlow Lake and offers two different hikes for visitors. One is an overlook with views of the colorful woods and the other winds around the peninsula that juts into the lake offering a clear view of the colorful forest. It's also incredibly quiet out here, no road noise at all. The **Peninsula Trail** is .4 miles down to the water and an easy walk. If you have little ones with you or people not as experienced with hiking, this trail is much easier than the Overlook Trail. If you're looking for something a bit more challenging, the **Overlook Trail** is .6 miles and a steady climb up. The forest is quite thick so the view isn't as dramatic as others but it's still beautiful.

## Mount Marquette

If you want a view of the lake and the city of Marquette without any hiking, drive up to the top of Mount Marquette. On a clear day, you can see a quilted landscape of autumn colors and the entire city of Marquette, including Northern Michigan University's Superior Dome and the Ore Dock. This point is easy to find using app navigation but drive south of town to 553 and turn on Mt. Marquette Road and drive to the top. This is a one-way road and quite steep so I'd only drive it if you have 4wheel drive.

Mount Marquette, not to be confused with [Marquette Mountain](#), offers an extensive city view accessible by car or on foot, making it ideal for explorers of all ages and abilities. Located just two miles east of downtown Marquette, visitors can reach this scenic spot by turning left on Cliff Power Road. This one-way drive takes you to the top of the mountain and back down to County Road 553.

The road to the summit can be a bit rugged, narrow, and steep, but the short drive is well worth it for the unique vantage point it offers. Note that it's a seasonal road, only open to [snowmobiles](#) in winter. From 1,200 feet up, you can experience Marquette from a different perspective and take in the all-encompassing view of the city and [Lake Superior](#).

To reach the top, follow Mt. Marquette Road as it winds up the mountain. At the summit, park your car and head to the outlook area for a spectacular view. There are several viewing areas: the first requires a few steps up over rocky, uneven terrain, while the second offers easier footing, walking

over flatter terrain. Both provide breathtaking panoramic views of Marquette and its surroundings.

## Sugarloaf Mountain

Short but sweet — this scenic hike is popular among locals and visitors alike, for good reason.

Standing at an elevation of 470 feet, Sugarloaf Mountain in Marquette, MI offers a unique [outdoor experience](#) with its rocky terrain and [Superior](#) views.

The half-mile trail is well-marked and takes approximately 15 to 30 minutes to reach the top. Take the 'easy' way for tamer terrain or the 'difficult' route for a faster, steeper climb. Be prepared to step over rocks and roots. The climb includes multiple staircases and is rated "moderate" in difficulty. The rewarding sights, however, are worth the effort.

Sugarloaf Mountain is located about six miles north of downtown Marquette on CR 550. Get there by taking Washington Street to Fourth Avenue. Turn north onto Fourth Ave., which becomes Presque Isle Ave and drive .4 miles to Hawley Street. At Hawley Street, turn west (left). Hawley becomes CR 550. Drive about 4.0 miles on Hawley Street/CR-550 to the parking area. A sign that reads "Sugarloaf Mountain" marks the parking area and is easily visible from CR 550.

On a recent hike, my first time to Sugarloaf Mountain, two friends and I took the "difficult" route and made it up in about fifteen minutes. There's an optional "easy" route with a tamer grade that takes a little longer, but both paths up the mountain do require a extra care as rocks and roots stick out of the ground along much of the path.

Most people come to Sugarloaf for the view, but the forest canopy that envelops the trails is worth mentioning. With century old trees and ancient rock outcroppings, this trail reminds me of a few of the better hikes I've done in the rainforests of Australia. It really is a gorgeous area.

As we approached the top, the dirt trail switched to a series of wooden stairs that brought us up to the viewing area. At the top we were rewarded with a stunning view of [Lake Superior](#), Marquette, [Presque Isle Park](#) and Little Presque Isle as well as Hogsback Mountain and the large swath of forest between Marquette and [Big Bay](#).

The summit of Sugarloaf Mountain provides panoramic views from three observation platforms, each with distinct vantage points that offer a serene setting for nature watching and photography.

The south-facing observation deck offers views of the city of Marquette, showcasing landmarks such as the [Superior Dome](#), the [Upper Ore Dock](#), and [Presque Isle Park](#).

The east-facing deck overlooks the vast [Lake Superior](#) shoreline with views of [Wetmore Landing](#) and **Little Presque Isle** to the north.

The west-facing platform provides splendid views of the **Huron Mountains** and [Hogsback Mountain](#).

## Harlow Lake

No matter the season, this is the spot we got most often. There are tons of trails in this area that are dog-friendly and rarely crowded. Pack some happy hour supplies so after your hike, take in the sunset overlooking the lake. There is a parking area right by this giant outcropping which makes it really easy to climb up and enjoy the view while the sun goes down. No need for 4wheel drive to get to Harlow Lake and trailheads.

## Presque Isle Park Overlook

This is one of the most popular places in town and it's easy to see why the first time you visit. It's over 300 acres of forest, trails, and some of the most beautiful views of Lake Superior and fall foliage. Frederick Law Olmstead (yep, Central Park Olmstead) visited Marquette in 1891 and recommended the city leave it alone so the public could enjoy its natural beauty. There's free parking if you want to walk through the park but if you're pressed for time, you can always drive the one-way loop for a gorgeous drive. When we have visitors in town we typically take them here first to do a quick drive through the park and take a walk over the prehistoric Blackrocks formation and photos at Sunset Pointe. We've yet to do it but if you're really brave, you can jump off the Blackrocks into the freezing water.

## CR 510 Bridge View

Co Rd 510, Negaunee, MI 49866

Family and dog friendly, use caution. Accessible by car.

## Marquette Multi-Use Path

Walking along the Lake Superior shoreline is one of the best things to do in Marquette Michigan during the spring. The Multi-Use Path is a paved network that stretches for more than 17 miles.

From Presque Isle in the north to wooded paths in the south, it passes through some of Marquette's most scenic and historic areas. You can access the trail via Founders Landing Park, Mattson Park, Presque Isle Park, Shiras Park, and South Beach Park. It even connects to the [Noquemanon Trail Network's South Trails](#).

## McCarty's Cove

Like a scene out of a movie, you can see Marquette Harbor Lighthouse from the small beach at [McCarty's Cove](#). You can swim from the sandy Lake Superior shoreline — where the water is slightly warmer than at other beaches on the lake — to the lagoon and rock islands.

Summer is the best time to go because there's a lifeguard on duty. Along the beach are volleyball nets, benches, a picnic area, and a playground.

## Presque Isle Park

Visiting [Presque Isle Park](#) is one of the best things to do in Marquette Michigan during the summer because of everything that it offers. It features a few pebble beaches where you can swim when the waters are calm. You can launch canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards from these beaches as well.

A unique feature in the park, [Black Rocks](#) is an ancient rock formation that's about 1.7 billion years old. Standing 20 to 30 feet above the surface of Lake Superior, it's a spot where many locals and visitors go cliff jumping.

Presque Isle Park has a 2-mile loop — Peter White Dr. — that closes to vehicle traffic at certain times of the day so that visitors can bike and walk the park without worry. You can learn about plants and wildlife on the interpretive signs of the Bog Walk and Nature Trail.

On top of these activities, you can climb The Pinnacle, a rock formation situated just beyond the observation deck.

## Little Presque Isle

Worth the 15-mile drive, [Little Presque Isle](#) is northwest of downtown Marquette. With heavily timbered forests, rugged cliffs, and sandy beaches, the locals consider it a crown jewel of Lake Superior.

Because of that, the peninsula offers hiking, swimming, and wildlife viewing in a single place. ***You have the opportunity to [watch the Northern Lights at night, and the sky is clearer than some other places because it's away from the city lights.](#)***

## Michigan Iron Industry Museum

Among the many free attractions, the [Michigan Iron Industry Museum](#) is one of the best things to do in Marquette Michigan. It overlooks the Carp River and is the site of the first iron forge in the region.

Open Wednesdays through Saturdays, the museum rests amid the forest gorges of Marquette Iron Range. You can take a 1 to 2-hour tour of the temporary and permanent exhibits, as well as interpretive trails.

## Big Bay Point Lighthouse

Lighthouse and B&B! Includes a spa.

Located 25 miles north of the historic town of Marquette and nestled on the cliffs of Lake Superior, rests the Big Bay Point Lighthouse Inn.

A great place for adults in search of a secluded retreat from modern life. This unique bed-and-breakfast inn is one of the few surviving resident lighthouse Inns in the country and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

GPS coordinates are W 87.40.480 North 46.50.280 If your GPS takes you onto a two track road through the woods, turn back to the paved road. Lighthouse Rd is now paved.

All RESERVATIONS need to be made through our secure website and not over the phone or in person. Our cell service can be spotty, so please send us an email, and we can coordinate a time to call you. Email: [bigbaypointlighthouse@gmail.com](mailto:bigbaypointlighthouse@gmail.com)

## Huron Island Lighthouse

[Forest Dr, Skanee, 49962](#)

A great trip for history buffs, the Huron Islands are eight rocky islands within Lake Superior. Built in 1868, the Huron Island Lighthouse is a granite school-styled structure isolated on one of the Huron Islands just 3 miles off Michigan's Coast. The Huron Island Lighthouse is listed as part of the National Register of Historic Places.

<https://lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=729>

## Presque Isle Harbor Breakwater Lighthouse

[Upper Harbor Lighthouse, Marquette, 49855](#)

Planning a trip to Presque Isle Park? Be sure to check out Presque Isle Harbor Breakwater Light, located at the end of breakwater stones, before you enter the park. The Lighthouse is still currently active, using its red beacon to guide iron ore freighters into the harbor.

<https://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=573>

## Stannard Rock Lighthouse

<https://stannardrock.org/>

Discovered by Captain Charles C. Stannard, Stannard Rock is a massive and treacherous reef formation located 42 miles north of Marquette in Lake Superior— Nicknamed the loneliest place in North America. Stannard Lighthouse was built in 1877 to protect sailors from crashing into the dangerous reef. The lighthouse is owned by [Superior Watershed Partnership](#) and used for international (US/Canada) climate research. SWP Staff uses data collected through monitoring to devise climate adaptation plans for regional coastal communities. Stannard Rock is protected under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act.

<https://www.lakesuperior.com/the-lake/maritime/333-stannard-rock-lighthouse-the-loneliest-place-on-the-continent/>

As maritime activity increased, the potential danger of the reef grew; it was just south of the Sault-to-Duluth shipping lane. Mariners dubbed it "one of the most treacherous reefs in the entire Great Lakes."

## **Ore Docks**

### **Lower Harbor Ore Dock**

The Lower Harbor Ore Dock is one of Marquette's most iconic landmarks. A stone's throw from downtown Marquette, this mammoth concrete & steel structure in [Lake Superior](#) represents the city's maritime and mining past.

Constructed in the late 19th century, the Lower Harbor Ore Dock was part of a network of docks that facilitated the transportation of iron ore from the mines of Michigan's Upper Peninsula to steel mills across the Great Lakes region. At its peak, Marquette was one of the largest shipping ports for iron ore in the United States, and the ore dock played a crucial role in this trade. Today, it's the perfect spot for a classic Marquette photo-op.

### **Upper Harbor Ore Dock**

If you're looking for a unique pastime while in town, take a moment to watch a freighter loading iron ore pellets at Marquette's Upper Harbor Ore Dock. Built in 1912, the Presque Isle Dock, as it's also referred to, is still in use today. Find arrival and departure information, current locations and other details of incoming ships on [MarineTraffic.com](#) to plan for your outing accordingly.

This steel-framed dock is 1,250 feet long and 60 feet wide, with the top deck sitting 75 feet above the water level. It contains 200 pockets, each of which has a capacity of 250 tons of ore, for a total storage capacity of 50,000 tons. Supporting the dock is a foundation of 10,000 wooden piles enclosed by a 12-inch thick timber sheet plank wall filled with sand. Each year approximately 9.5 to 10 million tons of ore are shipped from this dock.

### **Orehenge**

Twice a year, locals and visitors in Marquette have the opportunity to witness a stunning natural spectacle—the sunrise aligning perfectly with the center of the historic Lower Harbor Ore Dock. Affectionately dubbed "Orehenge" by locals, this event typically takes place around November 21st and January 20th. However, catching this phenomenon requires a stroke of luck, as it hinges on clear weather conditions.

Observers can expect the sun to rise from the left corner of the Ore Dock, passing through its center before reaching the top-right corner. The optimal viewing time is around 8:26 AM when the sun breaks the horizon and becomes centered within the Ore Dock. To fully appreciate the spectacle, it's advisable to arrive around 8:00 AM, as some of the most brilliant colors tend to appear before the sun emerges fully.

### **Ore Docks**

The pocket ore dock of the Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad in Marquette represents a historically significant engineering feat. It was the first such dock of its type constructed on the

Upper Great Lakes and is the only operating ore-loading facility in Marquette's harbors. Iron ore ships are loaded daily.

Presque Isle Gazebo and Lookout

Black Rocks

Lower Harbor Ore Dock

# Shopping

NORTHERN LIGHTS GLASS - 415 N. Third, Marquette, MI 49855

M-F: 11A-8P - SAT: 12-8P - SUN: 12-5P

WATTSSON AND WATTSSON JEWELERS - 118 W Washington St, #100, Marquette, MI 49855

M-F: 10A-5:30P - SAT: 10A-4P

THE GALLERY - 130 W Washington St, Marquette, MI 49855

Open seven days a week.

906 AND COMPANY - 125 W Washington St, Marquette, MI 49855

Candles and boutique.

FANCY-FREE - 131 East Michigan St, Marquette, MI 49855

An eclectic collection of artists in store.

YOOPER SHIRTS - 503 North 3rd Street, Marquette, MI 49855

READ MY LIPS - 131 W Washington, Suite B, Marquette, MI 49855

Romance bookstore.

TOUCH OF FINLAND - 2853 US-41, Marquette, MI 49855

<https://www.touchoffinland.com/> \$\$\$\$

# Food

## **Donckers (GF!)**

137 W Washington St

Marquette, MI 49855

(906) 226-6110

Mon - Sat 7am to 7 pm, Sun 8 am to 4 pm

**Honey Haven Baking Co (GF Exclusively!!)** - 603 N 3rd St, Marquette, MI 49855

**The Delft Bistro (GF!)** - 139 W Washington St, Marquette, MI 49855

**Third Coast Pizzeria (GF!)** - 227 W Washington St, Marquette, MI 49855

**Iron Bay Restaurant & Drinkery (GF!)** - 105 E Washington St, Marquette, MI 49855

**Café Bodgea (GF!)** - 517 N 3rd St, Marquette, MI 49855

**Lagniappe Cajun Creole Eatery (GF!)** - 145 Washington Street, Marquette, MI 49855

**Trenary Toast Cafe (GF!)** - 153 W Washington St, Marquette, MI 49855

**Smelted Pizza x Matt's on Presque (GF!)** - 1635 Presque Isle Ave, Marquette, MI 49855

**Babycakes Muffin Company (GF!)** - 223 W Washington, Marquette, MI 49855

\*\***Portside Inn** - 239 W Washington, Marquette, 49855 - <https://theportsideinn.com/menu/>

# Discover Public Art in Marquette

By [Christine Steele](#) on Jul. 16, 2024

The stunning nature all around isn't the only eye-catching beauty to appreciate in Marquette. From the serpent of Blackrocks to Anishinaabe-inspired water-giving-life scene, public art is on the rise in Marquette County.

# “NATURAL”

*CORNER OF NORTH THIRD AND WEST OHIO STREETS*

*Artists: Lead artist Mia Tavonatti*

*Painted by Tara Tavonatti, Michele Tuccini, Sabrina Langdon, Taryn Okesson, Emmalene Oysti and Patty Gagnon*

There is perhaps no better word to describe the surroundings of Marquette, as this stunning mural shows. “Natural,” was the word chosen for this Power of Words Project—from 15 others submitted—that best depicts the region.

One look, and you’ll see why.

Mondrian mural

*Photo Credit: Taryn Okesson & @jamielcote*

# MONDRIAN GARAGE

*ON NORTHERN LIGHTS GLASS 415 N. THIRD ST.*

*Artist: Taryn Okesson*

Look for this cheery Red-winged Blackbird and Mondrian-inspired color block design when you’re exploring about on Third Street. The sight can’t help but make you smile. Snap a selfie in front of this iconic piece that brightens neighborhood faces.

UPCM mural

*Photo Credit: Kim Aisthorpe (By Kingirl / Studio South MQT)*

# “IT’S ALL ABOUT LOVE!”

*MARQUETTE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM 123 W. BARAGA AVE.*

*Artist: Josh Everingham*

Inspired by a graffiti mural she discovered while visiting her daughter in Austin, Texas, Children’s Museum director Nheena Ittner wanted to bring a similar style mural to Marquette. The Austin mural’s simple saying “I love you very much,” sprayed graffiti-style on a wall, had become a popular selfie spot and stop on tours in that city.

“It became this iconic thing and I just loved that idea of something as simple as that,” Ittner said.

Marquette’s iteration “It’s All About Love” has since become a popular spot for families, couples, wedding shots, and more.

*Blackrocks mural*

*Photo Credit: Sawftsea / Chelsea Monaghan*

## “KEVIN,” THE SAW WHET OWL

*LOCATION: BLACKROCKS BREWERY 424 N. THIRD ST & BREWING FACILITY 950 W. WASHINGTON ST.*

*Artist: Sawftsea*

Slithering across the back wall of Blackrocks Brewery’s production facility is the mysterious Blackrocks Serpent. Birthed from the depths of local tattoo artist Shawn Wolfman’s imagination, the mural draws on the mysteries of the deep, dark waters of Lake Superior. While there is no official name for the serpent, Wolfman said some around town call it Sigmund the Sea Monster.

After meeting Sigmund and seeing where the magic is brewed, make your way over to the pub to say hello to newcomer, “Kevin,” the Northern Saw Whet Owl, a permanent visitor on the patio at Blackrocks Brewery brought to life by artist Chelsea Monaghan (@Sawftsea). Snap a selfie in front of this cute, feathered creature while you toast to your Northwoods adventure or plan your next one.

downtown mural

## “LIVING THE GOOD LIFE” “MINO BIMAADIZIWIN”

*PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORNER OF THIRD AND RIDGE STREETS*

*Artist: Chelsea Monaghan (@Sawftsea) with direction of Glen Bressette Jr. and his father, Glen Bressette Sr.*

A celebration of Anishinaabe heritage, this gorgeous display honors Water Walker Josephine Mandamin, who walked more than 10,000 miles on sacred water walks around the perimeter of all five Great Lakes. Sacred water, fire, Thunderbird, turtle, and birch tree all feature prominently in Anishinaabe teachings.

Loyaltees mural

*Photo Credit: @kfunkit & @rowdelaney*

## EVOLVE & STAY INVOLVED

*LOYALTEES CUSTOM APPAREL 321 S. FRONT ST.*

*Artist: Chelsea Monaghan (@Sawftsea)*

Inspire positive vibes with a selfie in front of this colorful symbol of unity and hope designed by LoyalTees owner Brandon Sayen and artist Sawftsea. Hidden syllabics of Anishinaabe words were added by Northern Michigan University Professor Jud Sojourn. The mural welcomes visitors and residents into Marquette with a message of inclusivity.

Rare Earth mural

*Photo Credit: @poetickuma*

## RAINBOW WINGS

*RARE EARTH GOODS 200 DIVISION ST., ISHPEMING*

*Artist: Owner Pamela Perkins*

Spread your wings at this eclectic and delicious local cafe with a pic in front of this colorful, uplifting selfie wall.

## Thrift Shops

Goodwill: 3125 US-41, 49855; MON-SAT: 10-6

Salvation Army: 1009 W Baraga, 49855: MON-SAT: 10-6

Pak Ratz Thrift Shop: 1310 S Front St, 49855; MON-SAT: 10-5

St. Vincent de Paul thrift Store: 2119 Presque Isle, 49855; M-F: 10-5; SAT: 9-5

Good Old Dayz Antiques and Estate Liquidation:

Silver Creek Thrift: 219 silver creek rd, harvey, mi 49855

Fancy Free: 131 East Michigan St, 49855: 110 w washington st, 49855

# Dark Sky Parks and Northern Lights

# Resources

## Best Times in the U.P. to Stargaze and See the Northern Lights

Stargazing is great all year. Go out on a clear night with no lake-effect snow in the [weather forecast](#)

To see the Northern Lights, venture out on cloudless nights between August and April, with peak months being April, October and November. Check the forecast and tailor your search with these sites:

- [NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center](#)
- [National Weather Service](#)
- [Aurora Forecast](#)
- [Keweenaw Dark Sky Park](#)

When the KP Index is in the 0-2 range, the Aurora Borealis will be farther north, dimmer in intensity, and not as shimmering. When the index reaches the 3-5 range, the Northern Lights move farther from the poles and explode in color and motion.

## The U.P.'s Best Stargazing and Northern Lights Viewing Spots

Go anywhere in the Upper Peninsula away from town lights to see the stars and planets. For [watching the Northern Lights](#), the farther north you go, the more likely you will see them on the horizon. The southern shore of Lake Superior offers the best views.

These are some favorite areas throughout the U.P.:

<https://app.snapsea.io/p/embed/96e01360-b39d-4d1e-87fb-09648bb4182f?locale=en>

- [Drummond Island](#)
- [Brimley State Park](#)
- [Whitefish Point](#)
- [Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore](#)
- [Munising](#)
- [Au Train](#)
- [Marquette](#)
- [Big Bay](#)
- [Escanaba](#)
- [Skanee](#)
- [Copper Harbor - Keweenaw Dark Sky Park](#)
- [Isle Royale National Park](#)
- [Eagle River](#)
- [Ontonagon](#)

## Drummond Island

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This [Lake Huron island](#) in the far-eastern Upper Peninsula offers some of the best Northern Lights viewing in the world. Two places to plop down your blanket and look out to the horizon are Drummond Island Township Park Beach about six miles east of the ferry dock and Glen Cove Beach on the eastern end of the island, just north of Marble Head.

<https://app.snapsea.io/p/file/embed/6f5b8308-0ff8-47ce-bab1-b3656a2898f1>

## Brimley State Park

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One of the [oldest state parks](#) in the Upper Peninsula, this park has 2,000 feet of sandy Lake Superior beach to watch the sky show on clear nights to the north.

# Whitefish Point

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[Whitefish Point](#) is located at the northeastern tip of the Upper Peninsula, 11 miles from the town of Paradise. Its Lake Superior rocky/sandy beach is renowned for rock collecting, freighter and bird watching, and seeing the Northern Lights.

# Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

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The country's first national lakeshore, [Pictured Rocks](#) pairs Lake Superior viewing with its historical, sandstone cliffs. If you think these views are stunning in the daylight, just wait for nightfall. With the park open 24 hours a day, you will have no trouble finding a spot to watch the Northern Lights and stargaze. Some popular viewing places are Grand Portal Point, Miner's Beach and Twelvemile Beach.

<https://app.snapsea.io/p/file/embed/e87c42bc-b15e-42e9-907c-0f0616ade208>

# Munising

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Along M-28 between Munising and Marquette, take any of the Lake Superior pullouts to find a spot along the shore to catch the Northern Lights or star-filled sky. The nice thing about these pullouts is in winter you have the option to watch the sky show from the warmth of your car.

# Au Train

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Located in the Hiawatha National Forest, [Au Train Beach](#) is easily accessible from M-28. It's a good dark sky area.

# Marquette

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The [U.P.'s largest city](#) has some of the best Northern Lights viewing, especially in the late fall and early winter months. Check out the M-28 pullouts mentioned above or hike in the summer months to watch this soul-stirring sky display from Sugarloaf Mountain.

<https://app.snapsea.io/p/file/embed/b6fadee7-a0a0-4470-97b2-10e52c962783>

# Big Bay

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The small town of Big Bay is 23 miles northwest of Marquette and is located on Lake Superior's Big Bay. You can catch the Northern Lights from the [Big Bay Point Lighthouse](#) (now a bed and breakfast) or Squaw Beach.

# Escanaba

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Lake Michigan also offers some Northern Lights viewing destinations. As you travel along US-2, duck down the Garden Peninsula and Stonington Peninsula east of Escanaba. When Northern Lights conditions are right, claim your viewing spot at [Fayette Historic State Park & Townsite](#) , [Sac Bay County Park](#) or [Ludington Park](#) in Escanaba. All three are open year-round.

Read more about the [Best places for stargazing in Michigan's U.P.](#)

# Skanee

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One of the best places near Skanee to view the Northern Lights and stars is in [Arvon Township Park](#). It is along the Huron Bay, one of the largest freshwater fjords in North America.

<https://app.snapsea.io/p/file/embed/9e6729f5-1c80-47bb-81b0-648d685208e7>

## Copper Harbor - Keweenaw Dark Sky Park

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The U.P. is thrilled to have a dark sky park certified by the International Dark Sky Association. It is the third in Michigan. The [Keweenaw Dark Sky Park](#) is headquartered at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge outside of Copper Harbor and extends to Brockway Mountain. The lodge opens its grounds nightly at no cost to the public and offers stargazing workshops and events throughout the year.

[Map of the Keweenaw Dark Sky Park, located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan](#)

## Isle Royale National Park

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[Isle Royale National Park](#) — Minong “the good place” in Ojibwa — is one of the least visited national parks in the country. Conversely, it is also one of the most revisited and on National Geographic’s “Best of the World” list for 2021. While this remote and rugged Lake Superior park is a premier location to watch the Northern Lights, it is only open to visitors in the warmer months. Your best bet is to see the aurora between mid-April and late October.

## Eagle River

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On the west side of the Keweenaw Peninsula, Eagle River and [Eagle Harbor](#), along M-26 offer some Northern Lights viewing on their Lake Superior coastline. Look north toward Canada and watch the sky dance!

<https://app.snapsea.io/p/file/embed/817919c0-3fb2-4fe3-974e-abefff59ccc>

# Ontonagon

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Framed by the vastness of Lake Superior, Ontonagon boasts a prime location for viewing the Northern Lights. With minimal light pollution and breathtaking northern vistas, it's a photographer's dream come true. The nearby [Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park](#) offers additional options for finding that perfect aurora-viewing spot.

<https://app.snapsea.io/p/file/embed/2facfa5e-3fc3-4fed-9b55-e56ef4706079>

# How to Take Stunning Northern Lights Photos

You do not need a full-frame camera to capture the shimmering beauty of the Northern Lights, although many professional stargazers prefer them. Use any camera with manual controls so you can adjust the ISO, exposure time and aperture settings. Set ISO between 1600-3200 with exposure lengths between 15 and 30 seconds. Pack a wide-angle lens and set the aperture between f/2.8 and f/5.6.

Bring a lightweight, sturdy tripod and add an intervalometer and two to three fully charged batteries to your camera case.

We hope to see you under the stars soon!