

WEEKEND GETAWAY ANGELA DANSBY



WISCONSIN VS. MICHIGAN

WEEKEND GETAWAY PLAY-OFFS PART ONE: MICHIGAN

Looking for a weekend away from the city? Check out the Wisconsin versus Michigan tourism play-offs. Both states score with lots of freshwater, beautiful coastlines, quaint towns, and spacious parks. You decide.

YES, MICHIGAN!

The zealous state slogan may be old, but it has some merit. Michigan is the Great Lake State after all, with a ton of natural beauty, terrific biking trails (www.michigandnr.com), and beach towns (www.beachtowns.org), and of course we can't forget top cherry and blueberry picking.

SOUTH HAVEN

Only 110 miles from Chicago, the quaint port town of South Haven (www.bythebigbluewater.com) is an easy getaway. It has long stretches of beach on Lake Michigan, many public parks and nearby inland lakes, gorgeous sunsets, and decent nightlife in summer months. South Haven is also one of the blueberry capitals of the world. Black River Harbor offers over 2,000 slips for seasonal boaters and a 100-year-old lighthouse. Bikers can enjoy the Kal-Haven Trail (South Haven to Kalamazoo) with 37 miles of woodlands and blueberry fields. For the adventurous who don't mind getting roughed up, there is outdoor paintball (www.triggerhappypaintball.com). Several wineries, antique shops, and art studios exist for the indoor bound. South Haven is known for its National Blueberry Festival (www.blueberryfestival.com). This year it will be held Aug. 11-14, featuring free rock and jazz concerts, a parade, and lots of blue food. June 17-19 will feature Harborfest (www.shharborfest.com) with lighthouse tours, dragon boat races, and live music. The Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival, featuring the vintners on the Southwest Michigan Wine Trail (www.miwinetrail.com), will be Sept. 9-11. A Saturday farmer's market will run through mid-October, featuring the goods of many fruit growers in the area. "U-pick" blueberries (www.degrandchamps.com and www.truebluefarms.com) are available July to September along with a variety of fruits at other orchards.

Recommended B&Bs are Martha's Vineyard (www.marthasvy.com), Inn at the Park (www.innpark.com), Sand Castle Inn (www.thesandcastleinn.com), and Yelton Manor (www.yeltonmanor.com). Good eats are at Clementine's (www.ohmydarling.com), HawksHead Inn (www.hawksheadlinks.com), Fish Tale Pub & Grill, Tello's Trattoria (www.tel-lostrattoria.com), and the Phoenix Street Café (breakfast and lunch).

HOLLAND

The Netherlands is closer than you think... Michigan's "new" Holland (www.holland.org) captures the old world charm of the motherland with stepped gable roofs, inlaid tile over doors and windows, white lacey curtains, and red brick walkways.



WEEKEND GETAWAY CONTINUED

Holland also upholds its name-sake with a Dutch Village, the only delftware factory and operating Dutch windmill in the U.S., wooden shoe carvers, and an annual tulip festival. The local New Holland Brewery (www.newhollandbrew.com) even makes "Red Tulip Ale" with



stone ground flour from the windmill (given its Dutch Reformist roots, Holland is dry on Sundays, so BYOB). Founded by a Dutch immigrant in 1847, Holland was featured on NBC's "Today Show" in 2004. Its Dutch Village (www.dutchvillage.com) includes 10 acres of authentic Dutch architecture, canals, and gardens. The 278-year-old DeZwaan windmill on Windmill Island (www.windmillisland.org) was the last ever to leave The Netherlands as windmills are now considered historic monuments there. Downtown Holland is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has more than 100 independently owned shops. Dutch imports from The Netherlands are plentiful along with art galleries, especially in Saugatuck (www.saugatuck.com), 10 miles south. The DeKlomp Wooden Shoe Factory & Delft Factory makes the most uncomfortable shoes in the world, but also some of the prettiest blue and white china. In addition to shopping, beautiful white sand beaches and sunsets characterize Holland. Tunnel Park has a tunnel through a sand dune to Lake Michigan. True to Dutch tradition, the bicycle is a popular mode of transportation; Holland State Park has 120 miles of paved bike paths and there's a 20-mile trail between Holland and Grand Haven. Centennial Park will have free Friday night concerts June 15-Sept. 7. In case of rain, check out The Lost City (www.the-lostcity.com), an indoor high-tech entertainment center with a laser tag arena.

Recommended places to stay are the Haworth Inn (www.haworthinn.com), Shaded Oaks (www.shadedoaks.com), and Dutch Colonial Inn (www.dutchcolonialinn.com). Good eats are at Remember When Café (breakfast), the Alpen Rose (www.alpenroserestaurant.com for brunch), Till Midnight (www.tillmidnight.biz), Butch's Dry Dock (www.butchs.net), Curragh Irish Pub (www.curraghholland.com), and Captain Sundae's (ice cream).

WEEKEND GETAWAY CONTINUED

LUDINGTON

Ludington (www.ludingtoncvb.com) is an old lumber town and shipping port with seven miles of beachfront, abundant natural resources, and small town charm. Often called the queen of Michigan's parks, Ludington has miles of backcountry roads, virgin forests, and dunes. Ludington State Park and lower



Hamlin Lake provide all types of outdoor recreational activities with marked canoe routes and several campgrounds. Pere Marquette National Scenic River is great for fishing. Ludington also has three marinas, historic lighthouses, dune rides, golf courses, and a riding stable (www.doublejj.com). Manistee National Forest and Silver Lake to the north and south of Ludington, respectively, also provide outdoor adventures. A fun and relaxing way to get to Ludington from Chicago is by The Lake Michigan car ferry (www.ssbadger.com) from Manitowoc, WI. This four-hour cruise includes movies and entertainment. Another car ferry option is the 2.5-hour Lake Express (www.lake-express.com) from Milwaukee, WI to Muskegon, MI. The drive to Ludington from Muskegon is about 1.5 hours.

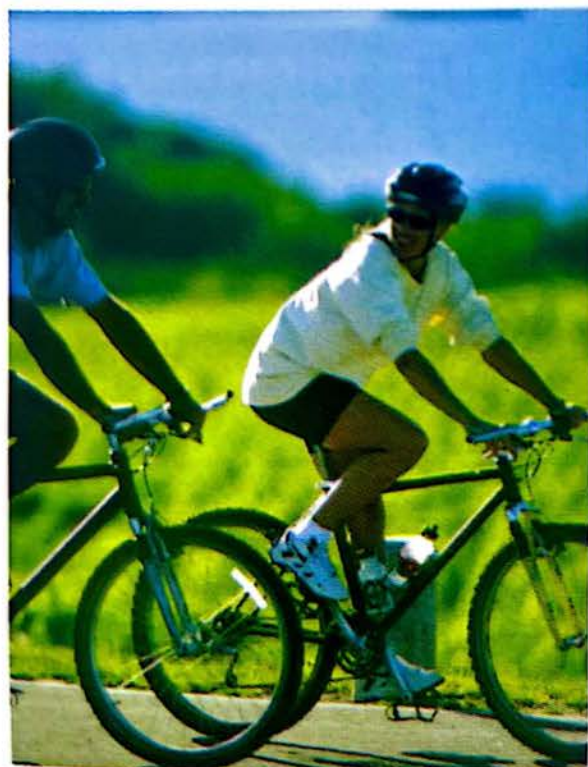
Recommended B&Bs are the Lamplighter (www.ludington-michigan.com), Schoenberger House (www.schoenbergerhouse.com), and Snyder's Shoreline Inn (www.snydershoreinn.com). Good restaurants include the Jamesport Brewing Company (www.jamesportbrewingco.com), PM Steamers, Scotty's, and Luciano's.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Traverse City (www.mytraversecity.com) is the hub of the county, and the largest producer of tart cherries in the world. Its economy also benefits from Grand Traverse Bay's clear water, championship golf courses, and spectacular sand dunes. Sweeping for 64 miles along Lake Michigan is Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Climbing this big bear is a great hamstring workout. The dunes cover more than 70,000 acres, including streams, beech and maple forests, two islands, 20 inland lakes, and debris from more than 50 shipwrecks. Many of these wrecks are in the Manitou Passage Underwater Preserve and can

only be reached by boat and scuba diving. A few wrecks are in shallow water and can be easily reached from shore by snorkelers. Traverse City golf was ranked 12th in the world by Golf Digest. It has 13 courses, including the famed Jack Nicolas-designed Bear at Grand Traverse Resort – home of the Michigan Open. Forthcoming in June will be Sundance at A-Ga-Ming Golf Resort (www.a-ga-ming.com). Bikers have miles of trails going through woodlands, farms, and orchards. Grand Traverse Balloons (www.grandtraverse.com) offers sunrise and sunset hot air balloon flights overlooking treetops. Parasailing and kiteboarding are also available. The biggest event of this year in Traverse City is the 79th National Cherry Festival (www.cherryfestival.org) July 2-9. It will have cherry orchard tours, a canoe race, air show, cherry pie eating and pit spitting contests, kiteboarding and wakeboarding demos, International World Cup Beach Volleyball Competition, Queen's Coronation & Ball (black tie), Cherry Royale Parade Milk Carton Boat Regatta, fireworks, and of course, cherry food. Vines Across the Bay, a wine tasting festival, will be June 25. The Manitou Music Festival (www.manitoumusicfestival.com) will open on July 17 on the Sleeping Bear Dunes. Jazz at Sunset will be performed every Thursday from mid-June through August at Chateau Chantal. The nearby Interlochen Center for the Arts will feature Pat Benatar (June 20), Bobby McFerrin (June 29), Ani DiFranco (July 19), and Jewel (July 28).

Good eats are at Trattoria Stella (www.stellatc.com), Red Mesa Grill, 310, and Sleder's Tavern (www.sleders.com). Good microbrews are at North Peak and Mackinaw Brewing Co.



The Grand Traverse Pie Company (www.gtpie.com), featured on the Food TV Network in September 2004, makes the best cherry pie anywhere. Buy or pick sweet cherries for eating and tart cherries for baking. Nice places to stay are the Chateau Chantal (www.chateauchantal.com), the Hall Creek Inn (www.hallcreek.com), Wellington Inn (www.wellingtoninn.com), and the Grand Traverse Resort (www.grandtraverseresort.com).

While Traverse City is quite a traverse by car from Chicago, taking the ferry from Minocqua, WI, to Ludington, MI, makes the trip more relaxing and fun. From Ludington, it's about a 1.5-hour drive to Traverse City.

WEEKEND GETAWAY CONTINUED

With a long weekend, Mackinaw Island (www.mackinacisland.org) makes a great day trip from Traverse City. It's a 1.5-hour drive to Mackinaw City, from where ferries go to the island daily. The island is practically carbon monoxide free with no cars on it except for ambulances. The main mode of transportation is by horse-drawn carriage. Pedaling around the eight-mile island is also popular. Seeing the Grand Hotel, horseback riding, sampling fudge, visiting Fort Mackinac, and climbing 200 steps to Arch Rock geological site are all fun to do.

LEELANAU COUNTY

Once described as "potable," Michigan wine is now winning domestic awards, especially in white wine categories like Riesling and Chardonnay. Leelanau County makes the best in the state. It has an official wine trail (www.lpwines.com), including Chateau Fontaine (www.chateaufontaine.com), L. Mawby (has a champagne labeled "Sex"), Leelanau Wine Cellars (www.leelanaucellars.com), Bel Lago (www.bellago.com), and Ciccone Vineyards (www.cicconevineyards.com) – owned by Madonna's father. Foodies will love the Leland Wine and Food Festival on June 11. The annual Suttons Bay JazzFest, which draws national talent, will be held July 23. U-pick strawberries and cherries are available in June and July, respectively. Empire and Suttons Bay have farmer's markets every Saturday from June 25 through Oct. 1. You can buy and sample everything cherry at the Cherry Republic (www.cherryrepublic.com) in Glen Arbor.

Fine dining options include Trattoria Funistrada, Windows, Hattie's (www.hatties.com), and Café Bliss (www.cafebliss.com). The Village Cheese Shanty is a great take-out deli. Very nice accommodations are at The Homestead Resort (www.thehomesteadresort.com) in Glen Arbor and Black Star Farms (www.blackstarfarms.com) in Suttons Bay with European-style agro tourism. Other options are the Glen Arbor B&B (www.glenarborbandb.com) or Whale Back Inn (www.whalebackinn.com). More information is at www.leelanau.com and www.suttonsbayarea.com.

Be sure to check out next month when we talk Wisconsin Getaways. **scene**

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