

# FALL ESCAPES

on the Art Coast of Michigan™



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WELCOME TO

**Saugatuck Douglas**



For a truly stunning fall drive, take the highway known as both Red Arrow and Blue Star Memorial to Saugatuck/Douglas. Travel north from the border along the Lake Michigan shore, beneath a tapestry of blazing leaves and through ancient sand dunes.



**EXPLORE THE SHORE**

Hover your phone's camera over the code for more things to see and do in the area.



PHOTOGRAPH: JILL DEVRIES PHOTOGRAPHY. MAPS: GRACE NELSON

**CONTENTS**

**04**  
**ART ALFRESCO**  
 Where nature naturally inspires.

**06**  
**WORKS OF ART**  
 Where Art Coast creators find their muse.

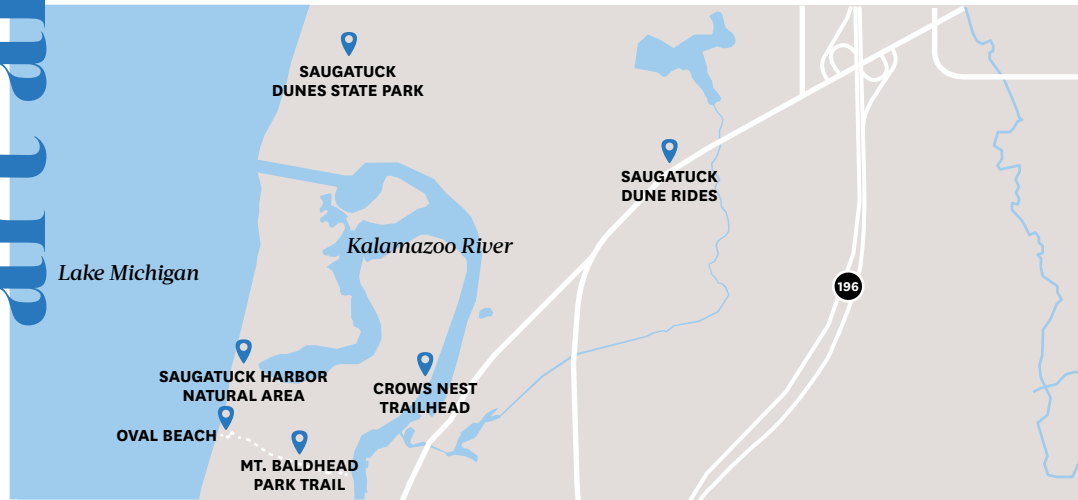
**08**  
**ART OF THE POUR**  
 Where fruitful minds bear imaginative sips.

**10**  
**CULINARY ART**  
 Where locally grown products take center stage.

—  
**COVER**  
**JILL DEVRIES**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY**

NATURE

No wonder art thrives here. Inspiration is in the air itself—and on the shore and in the forests. Find your creative spark in the great outdoors of Saugatuck/Douglas.



**H**OME TO 2.5 MILES OF SANDY LAKE MICHIGAN SHORELINE, traced by coastal dunes, forests and trails, **Saugatuck Dunes State Park** epitomizes the beauty of Saugatuck/Douglas. Four trails lead over rolling terrain to Lake Michigan. The park's 300-acre Patty Birkholz Natural Area preserves a coastal dune system and three endangered plant species. Follow forest trails through the scent of pines and sounds of birdsong.

**Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area** beckons with 173 acres of dynamic duneland along the Lake Michigan shore. Owned by the City of Saugatuck and open year-round, the land supports species of rare plants, birds and animals. It demonstrates the unique geological and ecological features of Great Lakes dunes. Take **Crows Nest Trail** through the **Tallmadge Woods Nature Preserve** to one of the best vistas in this part of the state—the trees clear and you're looking down on Ox-Bow Lagoon and Lake Michigan.

For another trek with a big payoff, hike the **Mt. Baldhead Park Trail**. The 1-mile route culminates with a 300-step staircase to the top of Mt. Baldhead.

From there, enjoy the panoramic overlook of Saugatuck/Douglas and the Kalamazoo River.

**Oval Beach** will knock your sandals off with its golden grains and shimmering dunes—it's been named one of the world's best beaches. Get a closer look at the landscape from the pumped-up seat of a tricked out Dodge Power Wagon fitted with aircraft tires on a tour with **Saugatuck Dune Rides**.

For a more leisurely jaunt, go on a tractor-driven hayride at **Crane Orchards**, where fall traditions include picking apples, perusing the pumpkin patch, sampling apple cider (and apple cider doughnuts) and finding your way through a 15-acre corn maze.

Or get lost in displays of autumn color—prime viewing spots include the **Felt Estate** in Saugatuck, **Lyons Fruit Market** between Douglas and Fennville, and **Wade's Bayou Memorial Park** in downtown Douglas. See fall beauty from a unique perspective on the **Star of Saugatuck**, a double-decker paddle-wheeler boat that plies the Kalamazoo River. In late October, the vessel hosts the Boos Cruise, an adults-only Halloween party on the water with drink specials and a costume contest.

PHOTOGRAPHS: CRAIG WATSON PHOTO



**a** Explore Mt. Baldhead, a huge dune between Lake Michigan and the Kalamazoo River. Downtown Saugatuck sits across the river.

**b** Oval Beach regularly makes lists of the world's best sand spots. Like the rest of the Saugatuck/Douglas area, it's also a top LGBTQ+ destination.



**JEFF BLANDFORD GALLERY**  
Saugatuck  
Blandford uses the pottery wheel for almost all of his works, which often incorporate bright mid-mod colors.

## SHOP

For more than a century, Saugatuck/Douglas has been a hub of artistic expression. Today, about 30 galleries and studios display works and showcase resident creators.

**SEEDS OF CREATIVITY WERE SOWN HERE IN 1910**, when artists Frederick Fursman and Walter Marshall Clute, both teachers at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, formed The Summer School of Painting in Saugatuck to inspire students amid a natural setting away from the city. Now known as **Ox-Bow School of Art**, the school's 115-acre property still provides fertile soil for imagination. **James Brandess Studios and Gallery**, in the downtown historic Post Office, features original paintings by Brandess, a School of the Art Institute of Chicago grad. His landscape paintings focus on the interplay of natural elements. **Jeff Blandford Gallery** in Saugatuck displays Blandford's ceramic pieces, which are tinged with a midcentury modern aesthetic. Look for influences from the modern eras of architecture, interior design and furniture design. Two large gallery spaces and impressive sculpture gardens house the works of more than 60 artisans at **Water Street Gallery** in Douglas, a



Express your creativity and shop for more than art at the area's chic boutiques. **LANDSHARKS** in Saugatuck carries caps, hoodies, tees, dresses and footwear from more than 10 Michigan brands. Discover the difference between hippie-dippy and bohemian at **ENDORA** in Douglas. The store is home to a cache of curiosities: framed bugs, vintage rugs, jazzy jewels, kimonos, crystals and smudge bundles. Catch the eclectic city vibe in Saugatuck's **URBAN FOUND** collection of clothes, costume jewelry and home decor.

go-to spot for contemporary fine art. See glass, bronze, paint and other media. For more works of art, **Button Gallery** (bottom right) showcases a diverse mix of regional and national artists. A large eclectic collection of fine paintings, sculptures, textiles, ceramics and more awaits at **J. Petter Galleries** in Douglas. The multilevel space first housed local artists in the 1930s. And courtesy of an on-site wine bar, you can gallery gaze with a glass in hand. **Dawn Stafford's Peachbelt Studio and Gallery** in Fennville exhibits Stafford's oil paintings in a restored redbrick one-room rural schoolhouse from the 1860s. **Puddingstone** in Saugatuck cultivates botanical art, like containers made of traditional English terra-cotta garden pottery. Learn the art of *kokedama*—Japanese moss balls—from Josie Fowler.

**DO THE STROLL**  
During the Fall Gallery Stroll (October 8–9), a 45-year tradition, chat with artists, watch demos, hear live music, and enjoy local bites and sips.

**HOLIDAY CHEER**  
Come back for this year's tree lighting ceremony (November 25) and the Outdoor Holiday Market (December 3) at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts.



SIP

Rich soil, favorable terrain and Lake Michigan's climate mean ideal growing conditions for grapes, hops, and other crops infused in local craft beers, wines and spirits.

**G**OODNESS FLOWS from Saugatuck/Douglas' blue-chip breweries, hardcore cideries and winning wineries. **Guardian Brewing Company** in Saugatuck is fully LGBTQ+, woman- and brewer-owned, offering 22 taps (14 rotating, eight year-round) of craft beers that share an independent and innovative streak. A recurring favorite is the Nessie Imperial IPA, flavored with blue juniper berries. **Waypost Brewing Company** in Fennville focuses on farmhouse-style ales and craft lagers reflecting the setting—a 58-acre tender fruit farm. The fields provide both the ingredients and the inspiration for brews like the Farmhouse IPA, Saison and an array of fruited sours (with farm-grown fruit). The area's oldest craft brewery, **Saugatuck Brewing Company** in Douglas, features two tasting rooms and a patio. Mainstay beers include Blueberry Maple Stout, Interplanetary Lager and Oval Beach Blonde. It's the

only Michigan brewery to offer a Brew On Premise Program, which lets you craft your own beer with provided recipes, ingredients and equipment. (You return in a couple of weeks to bottle.)

Taste hard apple cider made with all-natural ingredients and no added sugar on a farm in Fennville. **Virtue Cider** employs hand-pressing and solar-powered fermentation to create crisp, award-winning ciders. Founder Gregory Hall, a brewmaster in his past life, studied the craft of cider and brought it to apple country.

**Crane's Winery**, owned by the same fruit-astute family as the restaurant, has a knack for hard cider. Their apple-cherry version won top honors in a global competition, and they also make an apple-blueberry variety. Bottling world-class wines from grapes grown along the Lake Michigan shore remains the mission of **Fenn Valley Vineyards**, a nearly 50-year-old family-owned and -operated vineyard and winery in Fennville. The complex is on a 240-acre farm located 5 miles from Lake Michigan and south of Holland, a site chosen by the Welsch family after researching weather, climate and soil data. **Modales Wines** in Fennville carries on a legacy started more than a century ago by pioneers who planted nearly 26 acres of grapevines on the land. Today, Modales has 40 acres of grapevines. Tasting room decor incorporates materials from three cottages for seasonal workers that stood on the site for decades.



**NEW HOLLAND SPIRITS'** Saugatuck tasting room is perfect for happy hour or after-dinner drinks. Try a tasting flight or a cocktail made with their award-winning spirits, such as Lake Life Vodka, Beer Barrel Bourbon or Knickerbocker Gin.



**COPPERCRAFT DISTILLERY** offers free sips of its premium whiskey, vodka, gin and rum at a waterfront tasting room in Saugatuck. Order a handcrafted cocktail (like a Downtown Greyhound) from the bar or take a bottle home.



**a** The Mitten Brewing Company hits a home run with craft beer and pizza in its baseball-themed microbrewery in Saugatuck.

**b** With a family name known for fruit and orchards, it's no surprise that Crane's Winery in Fennville produces delicious wines and hard ciders.

**c** Joe and Erica Krajewicz's Michigan Wine Company creates small batches of wine and cider. Come taste the artistic results.

**d** Tap into the welcoming vibe and barrel-aged ciders at Fennville's Virtue Cider. On cool days, cozy up in the heated greenhouses.

FOOD

Every artist needs a muse and in Saugatuck/Douglas, it comes on a plate. For fine dining or a casual meal, dishes are cued by the seasons and locally grown bounty.



**PENNYROYAL CAFE AND PROVISIONS**  
*Saugatuck*  
Dine on chef Melissa Corey's farm-forward cuisine inside or in the open air on the patio.



← **BUTTER AND WHISKEY**  
*Saugatuck*  
This pub uses locally sourced ingredients when possible for all of your favorites.

→ **THE SOUTHERNER**  
*Saugatuck*  
By the Kalamazoo River, the restaurant has a heated porch that makes it even cozier in fall.



Choose your lodgings from a mosaic of motels, resorts, B&Bs and inns. Rentals at **OLD PIKE COTTAGES** in Saugatuck include screen porches, s'mores kits and a heated pool open until the end of October. **THE DUNES** in Douglas is one of the country's largest LGBTQ+ resorts. Dance at a club, make new friends at bars and play drag queen bingo. Saugatuck's **BELLA VITA SPA AND SUITES** relaxes and rejuvenates. Down the hall from your room, get a massage or facial. Fireplaces and elegant furniture grace rooms at Saugatuck's **THE BELVEDERE INN AND RESTAURANT**, set in a restored 1913 mansion.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (PENNYROYAL CAFE AND PROVISIONS) JILL DEVRIES PHOTOGRAPHY, (BUTTER AND WHISKEY) CRAIG WATSON PHOTO, (THE SOUTHERNER) RYAN DONNELL

**THE FOOD IS SUMPTUOUS IN SAUGATUCK.** Executive chef Melissa Corey, winner of the Food Network's *Chopped* competition, calls on seasonal produce and classic techniques to steer **Pennyroyal Cafe and Provisions**. For breakfast, nosh on Monte Cristo croissants, handmade freshly baked pastries or blueberry pancakes in a gorgeous courtyard. Seafood-savvy **Coast 236 Restaurant and Bar** has been recognized by the James Beard Foundation as a Smart Catch Leader for its sustainable approach in choosing fish. The menu includes tuna crudo, Norwegian fjord trout and Faroe Island salmon. At **The Southerner**, chef Matt Millar (a two-time James Beard Award semifinalist) conjures traditional flavors of the South with Nana's Fried Chicken, chicken biscuit sandwiches, shrimp and grits, and a killer bourbon list. Lindsay and Alec Payleitner's **GROW Cafe and Bistro** tempts with brunch and lunch options like Carrot Cake Pancakes, Blueberry Lemon French Toast, and burgers (beef or falafel). They also own **The TRAP**, a Middle Eastern-inspired dinner spot in an adjacent space. Find more great food in Fennville: Apple cider doughnuts are a fall fave at family-owned **Crane's Pie Pantry, Restaurant and Winery**. Or warm your heart and stomach with their famous sloppy joes, chili (from a 50-year-old family recipe) and dessert. Can't decide on one pie flavor? Order a flight of four. Fresh-baked bread is key at **Salt of the Earth**, where from-scratch meals are prepared using seasonal and sustainable ingredients. Try the appetizer bread board or a wood-fired pizza—variations include wild mushroom and short rib. The vegan chocolate mousse is a must-have dessert.



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#ARTCOASTOFMICHIGAN



Find fiery fall foliage along  
the Art Coast of Michigan.

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JORDAN MARENTE