

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a lush green forest covering a mountain. In the distance, a mountain peak is visible against a bright, hazy sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

The Unofficial Michigan State University Plant Science Recruitment Weekend

Graduate Student Guide

2017

WELCOME

We're glad you're here.

The 2017 Graduate Student Planning Committee would like to take a moment to welcome you to the Plant Science Recruitment Weekend. This packet was the brainchild of many students who, like yourselves, found themselves at a terminal point in their lives, and understand that it all can be a little scary. So we made this...It's a guide for graduate students by graduate students. Remember that the future is bright, and Michigan State is a great place to shine even brighter.

As you prepare for your visit, we hope that you find this information useful. Safe travels, enjoy your visit, and we look forward to seeing you this weekend.

Disclaimer: Not official MSU Material. The opinions reflected in this document belong to the author(s) alone



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ADDITIONAL OPPURTUNITIES

A number of certificate, non-degree granting programs, or interdisciplinary degree programs are offered within the plant science departments at Michigan State University. Most departments can participate in any of these programs, however, some research topics are more amenable than others. Generally, these special interest programs have a few additional requirements including courses, seminars, or committee requirements. They are a great way to gain expertise in a deep topic area, plus they allow access to great communities and special funding opportunities. If you are interested in learning more about any of these programs, you can find more information at the websites provided.

Quantitative Biology (QB)

<https://qbi.natsci.msu.edu/>

Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology (PBCB)

www.canr.msu.edu/graduate/plant_breeding_genetics_and_biotechnology/

Plant Biotechnology For Health and Sustainability (PBHS)

<https://plantmetabolism.natsci.msu.edu/>

Bio-Computational Evolution in Action CONsortium BEACON

<https://www3.beacon-center.org/>

Environmental Science and Policy (ESPP) Doctoral Specialization

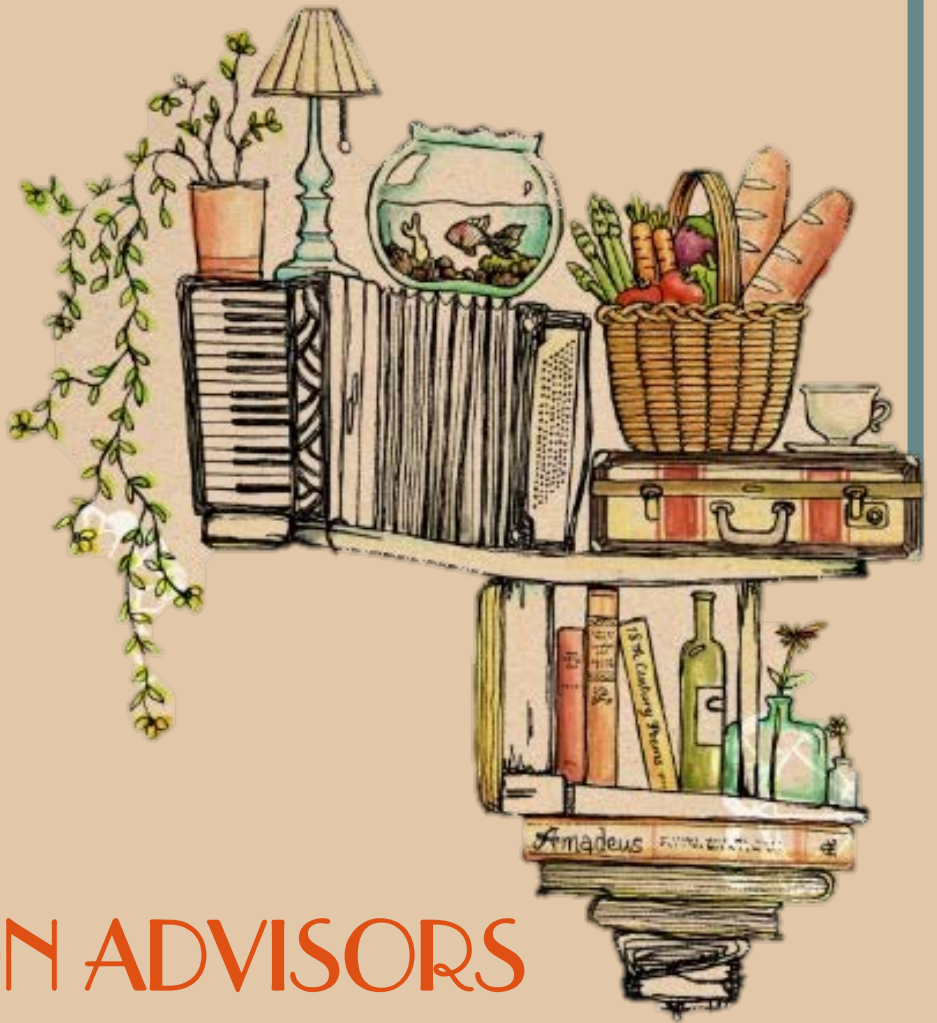
<http://espp.msu.edu/specialization/index.php>

Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, & Behavior Program (EEBB)

<https://eebb.msu.edu/>

BioMolecular Science

<https://biomolecular.natsci.msu.edu/>



ADVICE ON ADVISORS

Interviews can be intimidating, but that is okay.

Just remember that you need to find a good fit too.

Ask hard questions, dig deep. Get the most out of your graduate experience by finding an advisor that meshes well with you.

The Ideal Advisor Has...

Compatible Personality

Funding

Interest In Mentoring

Common Interests

Happy Graduate Students

Work-Life Balance

WHAT SHOULD I BE ASKING?

This can be a little tricky, but do your best to address each of the following areas to better understand the situation you might be getting yourself into. The best solution is to be open and honest upfront with these concerns.

What is their communication style?

How often do they meet with lab members?

What are the day-to-day expectations and responsibilities?

How often are they on campus?

What is your research and who dictates its direction?

What have their previous students done following graduation?

How will your research be funded?

What are your benefits, including stipend and tuition?

How involved are they in the greater scientific community and will you be able to attend and present at conferences?

Finding Your Community

While the choice of advisor is certainly important, oftentimes the majority of personal interactions are between other people working in the same lab or building. Labs, departments, and organizations each have their own unique dynamic.

Seek out current graduate students to get a feeling about the culture of a lab, department, or school. These are the people you will probably be interacting with the most over the next few years of your degree, so getting to know their personalities and perspectives will be immensely helpful in deciding the right fit for you.

Potential questions for graduate students in a lab of interest:

What is your favorite part about graduate school? The least favorite?

What is your favorite part of working in your lab? Your least favorite?

How did you decide on your research project?

How closely do you work with your advisor?

What do you do outside of school?

What are your plans after graduating?

How are you working towards those goals? your degree work toward those plans?

Don't forget to talk with technicians and staff! Often, these people are your day-to-day mentors, help with research experiments, and offer ideas. Having a good relationship with technicians will make your research go much smoother.

GETTING INVOLVED

Michigan State University is one of the largest campuses in the nation, and the number of clubs is reflective of that. Every plant science department has an organization to help you get involved, engage with industry, and develop professional skills.

GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ACRS	Crop and Soil Science
GUESS	Entomology
FWGSO	Fisheries and Wildlife
HOGS	Horticulture
PLB GSO	Plant Biology
SPORE	Plant Pathology

CAMPUS CLUBS

Most clubs at MSU are also open to graduate students and are a great way to connect with people who love similar hobbies or to learn something new.

See the complete listing: <https://michiganstate-community.symplicity.com/>



RESOURCES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED IDENTITIES

ALLIANCE FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION & THE PROFESSORiate (AGEP)

A NSF program that supports recruitment, retention, and graduation of US students in doctoral programs of the natural and social sciences, mathematics, and engineering with a focus on substantially increasing the number of underrepresented US minorities who will enter the professoriate in STEM and SBE disciplines. <http://grad.msu.edu/agep/>

SOCIETY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF CHICANOS/HISPANICS AND NATIVE AMERICANS IN SCIENCE (SACNAS)

A society of scientists dedicated to fostering the success of Chicanos/Hispanic and Native American scientists to attain advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in science. <http://sacnas.org/>

GRADUATE Women in Science (GWIS)

An interdisciplinary society of scientists dedicated to advancing the participation and recognition of women in science and to foster research through grants, awards, and fellowships.

MSU Chapter Website gwismidmichigan.weebly.com/

CAMPUS-WIDE RESOURCE CENTERS

RESOURCE CENTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (RCPD)

Website <https://www.rcpd.msu.edu/>

LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, GAY, AND TRANSGENDER (LBGT) RESOURCE CENTER

Website <http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/>

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER (WRC)

Website <http://wrc.msu.edu/>

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC)

Website <https://www.frc.msu.edu/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The Graduate Leadership Summit is a leadership conference held annually here at MSU in the fall. At the Summit, students have the chance to learn about leadership from leaders in a wide range of professional fields including higher education, government and business. Graduate students will learn how to develop and apply their leadership skills, knowledge, and abilities to all areas of their life.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Academy is an intensive, cohort style, developmental experience that happens every spring semester. The vision of the Academy is to create a learning community of engaged scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds who will apply theories and principles of leadership to their current contexts and beyond. Participants will attend weekly workshops where they will engage with advanced leadership concepts through discussions as well design and execute leadership development projects. Application is required.

<https://grad.msu.edu/leadership-institute>

COUNSEL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Council of Graduate Students is an authorized student government on campus representing our graduate/professional students at various levels across Michigan State University. Their mission is to improve and advance graduate education in order to ensure the vitality of intellectual discovery.

<http://cogs.msu.edu/>

Academic Growth

PUBCLUB

Short for “Publications Club,” this group holds weekly meetings for the scientifically-minded to hone diverse skills.

Website: <http://http://thecomonline.net/the-pub-club/>

EEB SEMINAR SERIES

Weekly Thursday seminars are hosted by the interdisciplinary graduate program, Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior.

Schedule: <https://eebb.msu.edu/seminars2015.php>

SCIENCE AT THE EDGE

This is an interdisciplinary seminar series that meets on Fridays, with topics ranging from mathematical models to genetic models.

Schedule: <http://www.pa.msu.edu/seminars/edge/>

PLB/PRL SEMINARS

Weekly seminar series hosted by the Plant Biology department every Monday.

Schedule: [https://plantbiology.natsci.msu.edu/departments-info/monday-seminar-series/](https://plantbiology.natsci.msu.edu/departments/info/monday-seminar-series/)

JOINT LAB



Open to anyone in the plant sciences to share research, gain presentation experience, and get ideas from students and faculty. Meets Wednesdays at 12:30 in the Plant & Soil Sciences Building lunchroom.

PSM/HRT Seminar Series

Weekly Thursday afternoon seminars are hosted by two departments: Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences in the fall, and Horticulture in the spring.

BMB Events

The department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology has a variety of opportunities, from weekly seminars to journal clubs and interest groups.

Events: <https://bmb.natsci.msu.edu/news-events/seminars/>

HANOVER SEMINAR SERIES

Weekly seminar series hosted by the Forestry department.

Schedule: <http://www.for.msu.edu/events>

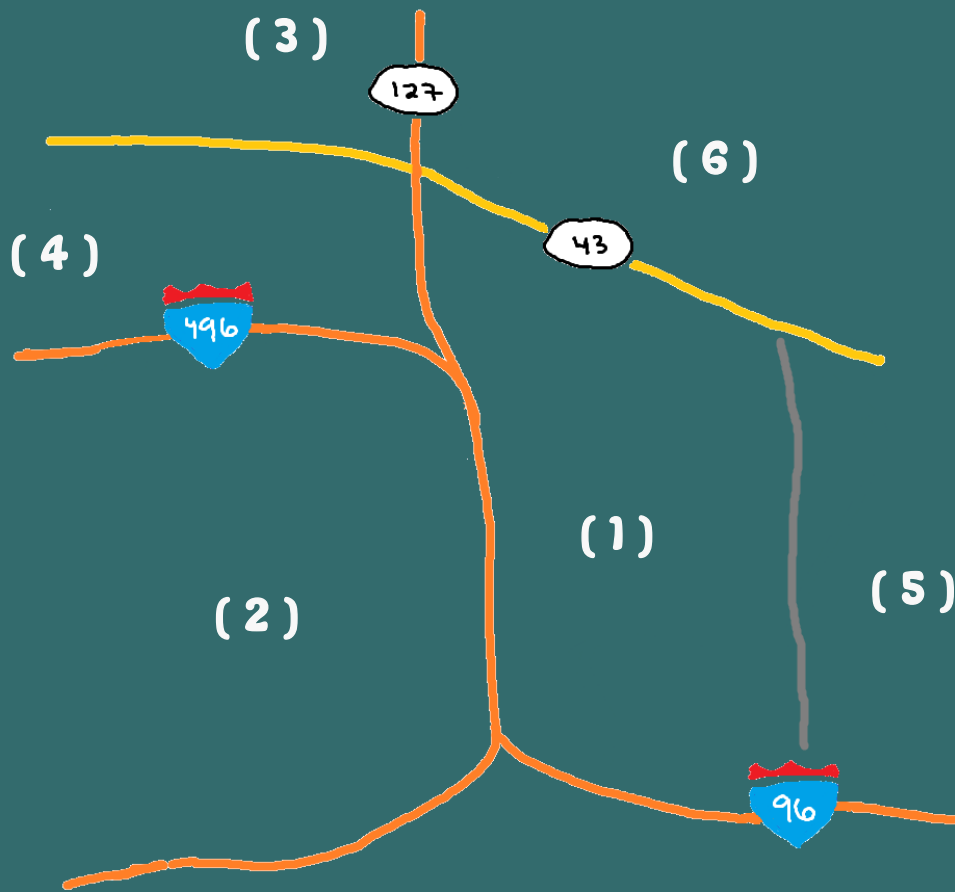
HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

East Lansing might not be the big city, but it is home to one of the largest college campuses in the nation. With over 50,000 students calling the area home throughout the year, there is no shortage of places to live. There are a few neighborhoods around campus, each with a number of pros and cons. Wherever you choose, we hope you can call it home.

1. On Campus Housing
2. Southside Lansing
3. Eastside Lansing
4. Downtown Lansing
5. Okemos
6. East Lansing



A great way to get immersed in the programs and culture is to room with current students. Ask around or get recommendations from future lab mates!



1) On Campus

A solid fallback option, on-campus housing consists of several dorms and university-owned apartments. Although infrastructure can be a little dated, on-campus housing offers many community events, is well-served by public transportation, and is within walking distance of campus.

2) Southside Lansing

For the most part, Southside is quiet and clean although we recommend avoiding the area between Pennsylvania and Cedar. Rent is affordable, and this area might be the most amendable if you are looking to purchase. If you're not driving, a bike commute will take around 20 min.

3) Eastside Lansing

Located equidistant to campus and Downtown Lansing, Eastside is quite popular with the graduate student body. This neighborhood is probably the cheapest option, and is also an easy commute to campus via bike or bus.

4) Downtown Lansing

Downtown is a fun place both to live and visit. Rent is a little more expensive, however, you will be right in the middle of the hustle and bustle of Michigan's Capital. We recommend driving instead of taking the bus because the commute can take almost 45 minutes.

5) Okemos

Lansing's neighbor to the East, Okemos is a large suburban community. Rent and cost to buy is a little expensive. That being said, there are a number of shops, malls, parks, and other amenities conveniently located in a quiet, safe neighborhood. Again, we recommend driving if you live over here.

6) East Lansing

The undergraduate community for a large Big Ten School. East Lansing is close to campus and the bars, however, housing can be hit or miss. The atmosphere is what you might expect.
Easy bike or bus.

PLANES, TRAINS, & AUTOMOBILES

Employee Parking Pass **\$127 per semester**

Can park anywhere south of the river

Commuter Parking Pass **\$105 per year**

Limited parking options on the outskirts of campus, therefore, you must either walk in or take the bus

Pro tip: Ride your bike in the fall, and purchase a parking or bus pass only for the spring when it is cold and rainy

Campus Buses **\$50 per semester**

\$0.60 per ride

Good service and reliability. Schedules are available online or real-time via text message

Megabus **\$40 or less**

Great way to get to Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, or Chicago

Flights **Varies**

Detroit is largest airport, but Lansing and Grand Rapids also have flights. Take the Michigan Flyer Bus to the airport for ~\$50 round trip.

Amtrak **~\$100**

Easy and convenient way to get to Chicago or Port Huron

GADDING ABOUT CAMPUS

IM SPORTS

The three sports centers on campus ensure that you are never far from gym amenities.

Intramural graduate student/staff teams

Free graduate student classes every day of the week

Munn Ice SKATING

Either catch a hockey game or enjoy public skate during lunch on weekdays or on weekend evenings.

Game Tickets \$10.00

Skate Rentals \$2.00

SPORTING EVENTS

At a Big Ten school there is no shortage of sporting events and grad students can purchase highly discounted tickets.

TIP: Buy season football tickets in June (includes all 7 homes games and a T-shirt) for \$230.00 then sell tickets to the Ohio State or Michigan game and recoup the cost of the entire package!



DAIRY STORE

Try all 32 ice cream flavors, with names that are bound to cultivate school pride, or sample award-winning cheeses.

Monday Special

FREE tomato soup with
grilled cheese purchase

CAMPUS Center Cinema

On the first floor of Wells Hall you can catch movies on the big screen each week that have just come out of theaters! Friday-Sunday 7pm and 9pm showings.

Admission
& Popcorn

FREE

STUDENT Union

Another place on campus to get MSU dairy store ice cream. Plus they have a cafe, post office, and bowling in the basement .

Wednesday Bowling FREE 8-11pm

WHARTON Center FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Take in Broadway shows, ballet performances, comedians, symphonies and just about any other performance you can think of, while sitting in plush red velvet seats. Get your tickets through the Center for student pricing.

Student Tickets

\$10-25



MSU Music School

Music Graduate Students and faculty put on FREE concerts most weeknights in the Music Building, especially toward the end of the semester.

BROAD ART MUSEUM

A quaint art museum that has regular, free guided tours on Sunday afternoons at 2pm.

Admission.....FREE

MSU Museum

The dinosaurs in the basement will refresh you on the Jurassic and Cretaceous eras and the exhibits upstairs are rich in Michigan history. The authentic general store is a must-see.

Admission.....FREE

BEAL BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

A peaceful study location and landscaping volunteer opportunity.



ABRAMS PLANETARIUM

Make use of the MSU 24" telescope on public observing nights in the warmer months or take in a planetarium show.

Friday & Saturday	8pm
Sunday	2:30 & 4:00pm
Admission	\$3.50 (cash only)

BEAUMONT TOWER

Climb the 73 stairs to the playing cabin behind the clocks to observe the 49-bell carillon or enjoy the music at a picnic on the lawn. Open to the public on Tuesdays during the semester and on Wednesdays in July for an annual summer concert series.

Tuesdays (semester)	12:00-12:30pm
Wednesdays (July)	6:00-7:00pm

DEMMEYER CENTER

Indoor and outdoor archery ranges as well as interior firearm ranges. Open to the public Friday 4:30-9pm, Saturday 11:00am-8pm, and Sunday 1:00-7:00pm.

Equipment rentals	FREE
1.5 Range Session	\$5.00-15.00



{ EXPLORING LANSING }

Lansing provides venues and events varied from the college town vibe you will find in East Lansing. Here are a few of the tried and true staples of the capital city, but you can stay informed of the latest events by using the online Lansing Events Calendar.

<http://www.lansing.org/events/>

OLD TOWN

Lansing's original downtown and boutique district. In addition to art galleries, cafes, and specialties stores, check out the festivals and phenomenal Absolute Gallery Chamber Music and General Store concerts.

RIVERWALK COMMUNITY THEATER

Entertaining and reasonably priced

LANSING RIVER TRAIL

Bike, walk, or run the 13 miles of paved trail that stretches from campus to South Lansing, through wooded groves and multiple parks.

POTTER PARK ZOO

Open year round with over 500 animals and a stellar light display over the holidays.

PRUESS' PETS

A miniature zoo you can enjoy even if you aren't in the market for a pet.

LANSING MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Beers are \$2 on Thursdays and the fireworks after games are fabulous. The baseball is, well, minor league baseball.

NCG EASTWOOD Cinema

Tickets for all show times are \$5 on Tuesdays.



WHERE TO DRINK (AND EAT)

East Lansing

HOPCAT :: Mighty extensive beer list

BEGGAR'S BANQUET :: Cozy with wine specials

CRUNCHY'S :: Burgers and karaoke

DUBLIN SQUARE :: Pub-Dub before 9pm, Club-Dub after, ½ off Wednesdays

AI FUSION :: Go for lunch specials and 25% off sushi on Monday

PEANUT BARREL :: Cheap, good food and free pool on Wednesday nights

UDON SUSHI :: Quirky must-see with free potato salad while you wait

Downtown Lansing

MIDTOWN BREWING COMPANY :: Craft brewery with a side of pub grub

BEER GROTTO :: Craft beer bar with growlers available for purchase

AMERICAN FIFTH SPIRITS :: Lansing's own distillery. They give distillery tours and welcome bringing your own food/games

TAVERN & TAP :: Spacious American pub

SOUP SPOON :: Delightful upscale, affordable café

DAGWOOD'S :: Classic "townie" bar, get the fried pickles

MORIARTY'S :: The place to go for darts and live music without a cover

Old Town

THE CREOLE :: New Orleans themed venue dishing out French and African fusion cuisine and funk music

ZOOBIE'S TAVERN & COSMO'S PIZZA :: Order the popcorn with truffle oil

GOLDEN HARVEST :: Eclectic diner that won't disappoint



SEASONAL FESTIVALS

JANUARY Lansing Art & Craft Beer Fest

APRIL Capital City Film Festival
Beerfest at the Ballpark

MAY East Lansing Art Festival

JUNE Festival of the Sun, Festival of the Moon
Lansing Beer Fest

JULY Lansing JazzFest

AUGUST REOTown Art Attack!
Renegade Theater Festival

OCTOBER Oktoberfest

DECEMBER Silver Bells in the City

COMMON GROUND MUSIC FESTIVAL

A full week of concerts of all genres

The Grand List of Festivals

www.lansing.org/events/local-festivals

LANSING PARKS AND NATURE

BURCHFIELD PARK

With 540 acres of scenic woods, trails and beach this is the largest park in the county. Canoe and kayak rentals and trips, pedal boat rental, cross country skiing and rentals, sledding, hiking trails, disc golf, mountain biking, softball diamond, and fishing.

LANSING NORTH PARK

Over 5 miles of trails which include many boardwalks. Picnic shelters, sand volleyball courts, and softball diamond.

HAWK ISLAND PARK

Swimming, volleyball, and horseshoes in the summer and tubing in the winter.

FENNER NATURE CENTER LAKE

Four miles of trails that span a host of ecosystems and includes a paved trail that comes in handy during the mucky months.

HARRIS NATURE CENTER

This Okemos nature center rents snowshoes or cross country skis and gives quaint guided moonlight walks.

WOLDUMAR NATURE CENTER

An absolutely adorable nature center in south Lansing. Check out the maple sugaring demonstration in March.

NORTHERN TIER TRAIL

This paved trail in the heart of East Lansing connects eight community parks and recreation facilities. See map for where to hop on this trail
<https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/DocumentCenter/View/1862>

LANSING PARKS AND REC

Produces an annual activity book of classes and events

[http://digital.zoompubs.com/publication/?m=17015&l=1&p=&pn=#{\"issue_id\":362649,\"page\":0}](http://digital.zoompubs.com/publication/?m=17015&l=1&p=&pn=#{\)

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EXPLORING MICHIGAN DETROIT

Belle Isle Park

A Detroit gem with an aquarium, conservatory, zoo, athletic fields, hiking paths, a lighthouse, a public beach and pavilions. Best of all, everything is free.

The Detroit Princess

In the summer months, an evening cruise on Detroit Princess is a wonderful way to take in the city from the waterfront. Very affordable (\$20.00 for 3 hours). Go straight up to top deck for views of the city, the bar, and the live music and dance floor, which gets more groovy as the night goes on.

Detroit Jazz Festival

A great festival that takes place on multiple stages on the riverfront in September.

Fox Theatre

A historic performing arts venue that was build in 1928 as a movie palace for the Fox movie theater chain.



The Fillmore

A popular music venue in the heart of downtown Detroit that hosts popular and obscure musicians of many genres.

Henry Ford Museum

See the evolution of motor vehicles and receive discounted admission if you are a Bank of America member.

Greenfield Village

A village from 1929, complete with blacksmiths, looms, and carriages.

Detroit Institute of Arts Museum

Only \$7 with student ID!

Michigan Science Center

Discover exhibits, live shows, and IMAX, 4D theater and planetarium shows.

Detroit Sports Teams

Tigers (baseball), Lions (football), Pistons (basketball), and Red Wings (hockey)

EXPLORING MICHIGAN GRAND RAPIDS

ART PRIZE

An enormous art competition that takes over the entire city each fall. Over 1500 entries and nearly half a million attendees.

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS AND SCULPTURE PARK

A great botanical garden with neat sculptures, a conservatory, butterfly house, and a gorgeous amphitheater that serves as a concert venue in the summer.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

An expansive museum with exhibits on everything from prohibition and discovering King Tut to fossils and robots. Plus, there is a carousel!

ROSA PARKS CIRCLE Ice SKATING

Enjoy a lovely outdoor ice skating experience in the heart of Grand Rapids. Public skating every day of the week Dec 3rd - March 6th.

Admission + Rental Skates \$2.00

EXPLORING MICHIGAN UPPER PENINSULA

LAKE SUPERIOR

Camp, hike, and paddle the largest and coldest of the Great Lakes.

GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECK MUSEUM

Tour several maritime buildings and learn about the destructive power of the Great Lakes.

Admission \$13.00

MARQUETTE AND COPPER HARBOR

Charming towns with great places to camp on the beach and see the Northern Lights.

MACKINAC ISLAND

Take a ferry to the past - carriages, fudge, and the Grand Hotel in addition to water sports.

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

Catch the ferry from Copper Harbor to the largest island on Lake Superior. Closed during the winter season.

PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Hiking and camping along sandstone cliffs and waterfalls! Taking a Pictured Rock Boat Cruise is the best way to fully appreciate the cliffs.

Dress warmly if you want to sit on the top deck.

Park entry

FREE

Sunset or Daytime (2.5 hrs)

\$38.00

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS

Venture up during the first two weeks of October when fall color is at its peak. We recommend the Escarpment Trail, Summit Peak, and the Lake Superior trail. And for the adventurous, camp anywhere along any trail for free.



EXPLORING MICHIGAN MAINLAND PARKS

HEADLANDS INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK

Located in Emmet County, MI this park offers an amazing view of the night sky

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKE SHORE

Sand dunes and beaches: what more do you need?
Bring water!

HOUGHTON LAKE

This 9 ft deep lake is crystal clear and makes for great swimming and paddling in summer and skating in the winter.

JANUARY TIP UP TOWN FESTIVAL Michigan's largest Winter Festival takes place on the frozen Houghton lake complete with fireworks, carnival rides, contests, and aerial performances.

RENT AFFORDABLE CANOES OR KAYAKS at Campbell's Canoeing and paddle the picturesque AuSable River. Day trip and overnight camping options are available.

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE STATE PARK Only 15 minutes from Houghton Lake, there are 174 modern campsites, picnicking, swimming, 2 mini-cabins, a boat launch, and over 8 miles of trails.



EXPLORING MICHIGAN MAINLAND TOWNS

FRANKENMUTH

Michigan's little Bavaria is home to the Cheese Haus, Kern's Sausages, Murdick's Fudge, the world's largest Christmas store, and an adventure park.

HOLLY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Consists of a series of weekend festivals in the summer and fall in Holly, MI with particularly good jousting and pirate shows.

TRAVERSE CITY

A summer tourist town with beaches and hotels along the shore line and a few alpine ski resorts. Known as a supreme fruit growing area and home of the Cherry Festival!

HOLLAND TULIP TIME FESTIVAL

An annual showcase of millions of tulips.

MAKE IT TO CANADA!

With three different points to cross the border, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Huron, and Detroit, it is easy to travel and visit places in Ontario like Toronto, Hamilton, or Windsor.