

GREATER LANSING

MICHIGAN

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Downtown Lansing greets you with a blend of historic charm and modern flair. Start your journey at the Michigan State Capitol, an elegant 19th-century building crowned by a grand dome. Its ornate chambers and painted ceilings offer a peek into Michigan's past. Stepping outside, you'll find yourself in a walkable downtown filled with local flavor. Maybe grab lunch at a beloved Lansing diner like Weston's Kewpee, where the olive burger, a juicy patty smothered in olive-laced mayo, has been a hometown favorite for generations. With your appetite satisfied, wander over to the riverfront and stroll the Lansing River Trail. The downtown stretch of the trail winds along the Grand River and passes through Rotary Park, a fun urban oasis complete with an artificial beach and colorful swings. It's a perfect spot to relax and people-watch as kayakers paddle by, and the city skyline reflects on the water. In this one corner of Lansing, you get a taste of the city's history, local food, and outdoor beauty all at once.

Beyond downtown's core, Lansing seamlessly blends into green spaces and the energetic campus life of its neighboring city, East Lansing. Follow the Lansing River Trail east, and trees will soon shade you on the campus of Michigan State University. The campus is a destination – a mix of ivy-covered halls, modern facilities, and natural beauty. Art and culture are alive here, too. With its futuristic angular design, the striking Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum beckons you inside to browse innovative art exhibits and snap a photo of the building's unique architecture. If you're curious about Michigan's heritage, the Michigan History Center and the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum offer deeper dives into local stories, from the birth of the auto industry to quirky state memorabilia, all open year-round.

Lansing's friendly vibe kicks up a notch when evening rolls around with live music, good food, and plenty of local brews. Head to the city's Old Town district for a casual night out with character. This historic neighborhood north of downtown is known for its creative energy, think street murals on brick walls, galleries showcasing local artists, and vintage shops that stay open late. It's also a great place to eat and drink. You might start with dinner at a barbecue joint famous for tender smoked meats or at a farm-to-table restaurant using ingredients from nearby farms. After a satisfying meal, follow the sound of music drifting from a nearby bar. One popular spot is The Green Door, a legendary blues and rock bar where live bands jam six nights a week and the dance floor is always hopping. If craft beer is more your style, downtown's Lansing Brewing Company offers a laid-back alternative. Grab a seat in their beer garden and enjoy a pint of local IPA. For a change of pace, you can even try your hand at shuffleboard at Lansing Shuffle, a new riverside social club and food hall that's brought games and global eats together under one roof.

BEYOND THE CITY

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN

Tucked along the Lake Michigan shoreline just a ninety-minute drive, Saugatuck is a delightful escape that blends beach-town charm with a vibrant arts scene. Spend your day basking on the soft sands of Oval Beach, often ranked among the best in the world, or wander through the scenic trails of Saugatuck Dunes State Park for a dose of outdoor adventure. The town itself is full of character, with art galleries, boutique shops, and colorful street corners inviting you to linger. You can hop on a historic paddleboat, join a thrilling dune ride over sandy hills, or climb Mount Baldhead for panoramic harbor views. As the sun sets, grab a table at a local restaurant along the river and savor the views. Cap off your visit with a drink and some live music at one of the local bars.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Detroit delivers an energetic mix of history, culture, and innovation, making it an ideal urban adventure ninety minutes from Lansing. Start your visit along the Detroit Riverwalk, a beautifully restored waterfront trail perfect for walking or biking with views of the city skyline. Dive into the city's roots at the Detroit Institute of Arts or stand in the historic Motown Studio A, where musical legends once recorded their hits. Relax on Belle Isle, a riverfront park with trails, a conservatory, and a small beach for a change of pace. Come evening, Detroit's nightlife kicks in with live jazz, rock, and soul echoing from venues across the city. Treat yourself to mouthwatering barbecue at then swing by a cozy speakeasy or local bar for after-dinner drinks.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Grand Rapids, just over an hour from Lansing, is a lively destination packed with outdoor fun, cultural attractions, and one of the best craft beer scenes in the country. Start with a peaceful walk or paddle along the Grand River, then wander through the awe-inspiring gardens and sculptures at Frederik Meijer Gardens. Art lovers can explore local galleries or take in the modern works at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. The city offers miles of bike trails, green spaces for those craving activity, and a cool downtown filled with murals and street art. The city comes alive with live music and buzzing breweries as the sun sets.

For dinner, enjoy seasonal fare at a trendy farm-to-table spot. Whether you're into hops, history, or hands-on exploring, Grand Rapids makes for a dynamic and delicious getaway.

GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

A quintessential Michigan beach town just a ninety-minute drive, Grand Haven combines lakeside beauty with small-town hospitality. The golden sands of Grand Haven State Park offer a perfect spot to swim, sunbathe, or walk the shoreline all the way to the city's iconic red lighthouse. The waterfront boardwalk is a favorite for scenic strolls, dotted with shops and ice cream stands that add to the laid-back vibe. For something unique, stick around at dusk to catch the Musical Fountain show, a nightly summer tradition where lights and water dance in rhythm to music. Outdoor lovers can explore nearby nature trails or rent bikes to ride the lakeshore path. When it's time to eat, enjoy lake views and local fare at the nearby lakeside eatery. Grand Haven is pure summer magic from morning to moonlight.

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

With its Dutch-inspired charm and lakeside serenity, Holland is a delightful blend of culture and coastal relaxation just over one hour away. Holland State Park draws beachgoers to its vast shores and sweeping views of Lake Michigan's iconic "Big Red" lighthouse. Not far away, Windmill Island Gardens offers a whimsical stroll through tulip beds, canals, and an authentic centuries-old Dutch windmill still turning in the breeze. The downtown area is a treat to explore, filled with inviting shops, public art, and brick-lined sidewalks perfect for wandering. In spring, the town bursts into bloom during the Tulip Time Festival, but even in summer it buzzes with outdoor concerts, farmers markets, and sidewalk cafés. Grab a pastry at deBoer Bakkerij for a sweet start to the day, settle in for dinner at a waterfront restaurant, and swing by a local bar for a craft beer or cocktail and soak in the town's friendly, festive spirit.



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