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# Welcome to the shoreline

West Michigan greets the visitor with warm sand, sunny beaches, world-class sunsets, friendly people, and fun activities as alluring.

Situated on the sandy shore of Lake Michigan, beaches from Ludington to the White Lake area have become part of many a family's summer vacation stop for generations.

When you find something this good, why not return?

Our state park beaches such as Ludington, Charles Mears and Silver Lake can't be beat.

Walk miles of public shore in Ludington, or take a dune ride at Silver Lake.

In Pentwater, the village is close enough to walk to — and why not with a great channel walk that gets you most of the way without leaving the water's edge?

The arts blossom here. Quaint Pentwater galleries host monthly art walks.

The Ludington area is home to several superb fine arts photographers whose work is either in their own galleries or on display in stores.

There are several fine art shows and arts and crafts fairs with local, regional and often national artists selling works.

Ludington is also home to an active arts center. It also boasts Sandcastles Children's Museum, remarkably cool with kid friendly activities and an airplane — as in a real Cessna — hanging from the ceiling that kids can "fly."

The area is rich in lumber-era history with fine lumber-baron mansions, great historical society museums in Hart, Pentwater, Mears, at Historic White Pine Village just south of Ludington and the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum.

Mason County is home to several historical and cultural heritage trails. Take a drive and see barn quilts, sculptures or lumber baron mansions.

As for outdoor recreation, this portion of the Lake Michigan coastline is second to none in opportunities for big- or small-lake fishing, with a world-class trout stream in the Pere Marquette River and the White River in Hesperia — and great stream fishing in other rivers. Take a charter boat or fish from shore on a breakwater or river access site.

Salmon, lake trout, steelhead and inland species from muskies and pike to bass, walleye and panfish are among the most popular fish sought in the area.

West Michigan's state parks are diverse. Ludington State park, at more than 5,300 acres, offers miles of hiking trails, access to Lake Michigan and Hamlin Lake, tubing on the Big Sable River and beach house.

The Friends of Ludington State Park group sponsors a free concert and nature series at the park in summer.

The William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Bicycle Trail State Park was the state's first linear park. Four lighthouses along the shore are open to visit and to climb their tours.

White River Light Station, Little Point Sable, Ludington North Breakwater and Big Point Sable lighthouses are icons of our shorelines and favorite subjects of photographers.

The Manistee National Forest offers a variety of other activities, from off-road motorcycle trails, to wilderness camping and hiking at Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area north of Ludington, camping, hiking, hunting and fishing. The North Country Trail winds through the region.

Plenty of other activities will keep you busy.

Rent a canoe and traverse Michigan's first canoe trail at Ludington State Park.

Feed elk at Amber Elk Ranch. Visit a dairy farm with great ice cream and cheese at Country Dairy in New Era. Ride or watch the National Historic Landmark SS Badger as it sails daily from mid-May through mid-October between Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Try para-sailing, charter fishing, or shop our visitor-friendly downtowns.

Want more information? Pick up the local newspapers, Ludington Daily News, Oceana's Herald-Journal or White Lake Beacon to see what's happening when you visit.

Or visit their websites, [www.ludington-dailynews.com](http://www.ludington-dailynews.com), [www.oceanaheraldjournal.com](http://www.oceanaheraldjournal.com) or [www.whitelakebeacon.com](http://www.whitelakebeacon.com)

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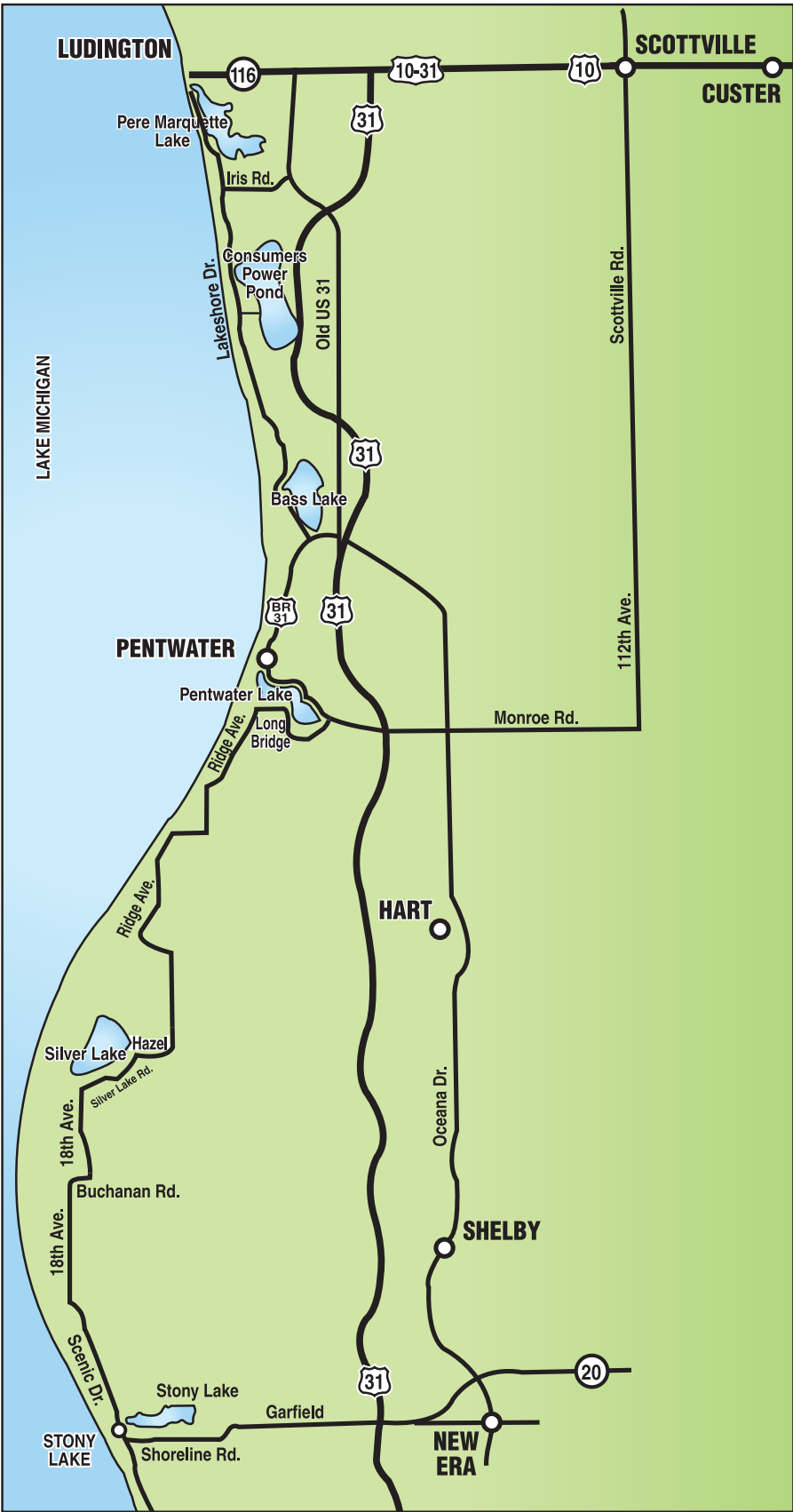




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# How to Explore Pure Ludington

Known for its magnificent natural resources, sugar sand beaches, small-town charm and fun festivals events, Ludington and surrounding Mason County make a popular vacation destination offering something for everyone.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

Mason County is a popular destination for outdoor recreation pursuits, including biking, hiking, golf, fishing and paddle sports. Ludington's parks – from 5,300-acre Ludington State Park to in-town Cartier Park with a one-mile paved loop and access to 10 miles of singletrack– supply miles of trails for hiking and biking. For a more rustic experience, picturesque Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area in Huron-Manistee National Forest affords hiking solitude and scenery. Golfers also will love the three public golf courses in the immediate vicinity – Hemlock Golf Club, Lakeside Links and Lincoln Hills Golf Club. If you're more into disc golf, Mason County has seven disc golf courses within a 15-minute radius – including Mason County Park with three 24-hole courses (including Goliath, the third largest course in the world), Leviathan at Ludington School Forest, The Edge at Scottville Riverside Park, Labyrinth at West Shore Community College and the new Tinderbox short course at Mason County Campground.

## BEACHES AND WATERWAYS

If a day on the water is your idea of the perfect vacation, then you're set! Mason County boasts 28 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, including seven miles within Ludington State Park's boundary – including a small dog-friendly section. Those who want a beach walkable from downtown will enjoy Stearns Park Beach, offering a family-friendly atmosphere perfect for playing in Lake Michigan or building a sandcastle. The park also boasts a grassy area with picnic tables and grills, a playground, skate park, mini-golf, volleyball and shuffleboard. Mason County also has 2,000 miles of streams, three

rivers and more than 40 inland lakes, making paddling and fishing a top activity. Ludington is the #1 salmon fishing port on Lake Michigan, with more than 45 licensed charters leading excursions. Fishing on the Pere Marquette River also is popular, and outfitters can help you enjoy a day on the river – whether you need a river guide or a kayak rental.

## CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

When it comes to cultural attractions, Ludington has it in spades. Visit the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2022, and Sandcastles Children's Museum – each offering interactive exhibits to spark imaginations (also ideal for rainy days). Outside the maritime museum is the Maritime Heritage Trail along Ludington's harbor. Waterfront Park, with its collection of nine bronze sculptures, playscape area and grassy picnic grounds, is another crowd-pleasing stop that educates about the region's history as the primary home of the Mason County Sculpture Trail. It also makes an ideal spot to watch the S.S. Badger, the last coal-fired steamship in the United States, cross Lake Michigan daily to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Ludington also boasts two historic lighthouses – Big Sable Point Light in Ludington State Park accessible via a two-mile/one-way trail, and Ludington North Breakwater Light in Stearns Park Beach, reachable via a half-mile walkable pier (also a perfect spot to watch the sun set). Both are open for tower climbs in the summer. Art lovers can take in current exhibits at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts or shop the small gift shop stocked with artisan-made wares. Further afield is Historic White Pine Village, an interactive historical experience that lets visitors wander among more than 30 buildings depicting what life was like more than 100 years ago in Mason County.

## DOWNTOWN SCENE PLUS FOOD & DRINK

Looking for a fun downtown scene? Ludington's vibrant downtown district

features boutique shops, art galleries, local eateries and fun drink spots – including two microbreweries that also serve food (Jamesport Brewing, Ludington Bay Brewing). You can also get a caffeine pick-me-up at Red Rooster or HumanITEA. And don't forget dessert – favorite stops include Kilwin's for fudge and ice cream, KRAVE for frozen yogurt, and third-generation family-owned House of Flavors for its legendary ice cream (plus tasty breakfast, lunch and dinner entrees). You can also enjoy takeout, watch live music or shop the Thursday Artisan Market or Friday Farmers Market at the new Legacy Plaza at the intersection of Ludington Avenue and James Street in the heart of downtown. Or grab an adult beverage from participating establishments and enjoy it outside in the new Ludington Outdoor Social District (LOSD) in designated downtown areas. Looking for a dining

spot closer to the state park? Try the newly renovated STIX Ludington that is now a two-story, fine dining restaurant featuring an outdoor rooftop, a beer garden with bocce and corn hole green plus space for movies and other games, and a covered patio with fireplace. The former Park Lanes bowling alley also has been renovated, with 12 state-of-the-art lanes.

## FESTIVALS

Providing entertainment for the whole family, Ludington hosts a number of festivals and events all year long. Highlights include the July 4th Freedom Festival, Sunset Beach Bonfires, West Shore Art Fair, Offshore Classic Fishing Tournament and Suds on the Shore craft beer festival. Free, open-air concerts such as Rhythm & Dunes and the Summer Live Music series at Legacy Plaza produce music, dancing and fun.



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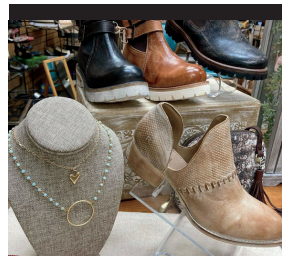
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