

Experience Alpena

Travel Handbook



Alpena
MICHIGAN

Sanctuary of the Great Lakes

sanc'tu·ar'y (sang-choo-er-ee) n., pl -ies

1. A sacred place;
2. An escape from life stress;
3. Where one leaves their cares behind to relax, restore, and rejuvenate.
4. Alpena, Michigan.

VisitAlpena.com

Alpena is the Sanctuary of the Great Lakes

A place where history and heritage collide with relaxed outdoor adventure. A sacred space. An escape from the stress of modern living. Where one leaves their cares behind to rejuvenate and inspire a happy, healthy, and creative life.

Cover Photo: *Little Red* lighthouse by Chase Gagnon, @chasegagnon

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Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

The official destination marketing & management organization for the micropolitan region of the Alpena, Michigan area. Est. 1984.

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Experience Alpena Travel Handbook

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Rest Your Head... Spotlight on Lodging

For more info, see listings on Pg 32-37.

Alpena Resorts

1285 M-32 West, Alpena
(989) 356-9087, www.alpenaresorts.com



Fletcher's Landing

5614 Emils Landing Road, Hillman
(989) 742-4166, www.fletcherslanding.com



Alpena Days Inn

1496 M-32 West, Alpena
(989) 356-6118, www.daysinn.com



40 Winks Motel & Vacation Rentals

1021 S. State Ave., Alpena
(989) 354-5622, www.40WinksMotel.com



Alpena Water's Edge Motel

1000 State Ave., Alpena
(989) 354-5495



Holiday Inn Express

255 River Street, Alpena
(989) 340-1800, www.hiealpena.com



Big Bear Lodge

2052 U.S. 23 South, Alpena
(989) 354-8573, facebook.com/BigBearAlpena/



Jack's Landing

20836 Tennis Road, Hillman
(989) 742-4370, www.jackslanding.com



Dew Drop Inn Motel

2469 French Road, Alpena
(989) 356-4414, www.ddimotel.com



Ramada Inn

1000 U.S. 23 North, Alpena
(989) 356-2151, www.ramadaalpena.com



Background photo: Rockport State Recreation Area. Photo by Felicia Fullwood, @felicia_fullwood_photography.

Notes from the field... Welcome

Mary Beth Stutzman serves as the President & CEO of the Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau; since 2013. During this time, much has changed in the world. When life delivers major change, it's important to take time to recharge, and reconnect with people you care about. Now is the time to re-prioritize balance. Experience the gift of the Alpena Area and feel your stress drift off to be absorbed by the leaves on the trees, and carried away by the waves in the water. Immerse yourself in the lifestyle that locals enjoy. A refuge. A safe haven. A sanctuary.

Something unexpected, wrapped in simple paper. A gift from a friend. A curious and excited feeling grows as you carefully peel back the plain wrapping. Revealed within is something you didn't know you wanted, until that exact moment. It's perfect. Your friend knows you so well. For a moment, your stress is on pause. You are firmly rooted in the pleasant moment of, now.

Taking a closer look at the cover of this booklet evokes a feeling of mystery, potential excitement, and wonder. Through simple wrapping, Alpena's *Little Red* lighthouse is revealed against a chorus of dramatic clouds over Lake Huron. The sun sends beams of light through breaks in the cloud-cover, letting you know blue skies are ahead and now, **in this moment, you have found a safe haven.**

To the right, my family and I are pictured visiting one of our favorite places. Surrounded by one of Michigan's last remaining stands of virgin white pine; trees wrap the shoreline of Lake Huron in natural splendor. Just beyond their boughs, azure waves gently shimmer on a secluded beach, Lake Huron's Besser Natural Area. A remote hidden gem at the north end of Rockport State Recreation Area. We go here when we need to reconnect as a family. **It is a gift to be able to live life in an area with so many unique places for connection and rejuvenation.** A perfect setting for recalibration.

The land of the Alpena area, once stewarded by the indigenous Anishinabe, holds the imprint of collaboration with nature, the closeness of human connection, and the space to create future possibilities. **A modern small town, at nature's doorstep. A refuge from the storms of life.** An inspiring place to cultivate the happy, healthy, creative you. We invite you to experience these gifts and make new memories. Use this Travel Handbook to discover the hidden gems of Northeastern Lower Michigan, and we'll see you soon in your Sanctuary of the Great Lakes!

Adventurously,



Mary Beth Stutzman, President & CEO
Certified in Sustainable Tourism Destination Management, GSTC



Annual Events

Background photo: Stand Up Paddleboarders head to the Shamrock Shipwreck off Thomson Park in Alpena. Photo by Joel Marotti, @nat_geo_vibes.

There is always a hustle and bustle of events, festivals, and activities taking place in the area. For up-to-date information on dates/times/locations, **go to [VisitAlpena.com/Events](https://www.visitalpena.com/Events) for our complete calendar** of events.

January

- Thunder Bay International Film Festival with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

February

- Alpena Ice Fest with Thunder Bay Arts Council
- Festivus Dinner with the River Center
- Annual Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament with the River Center

March

- Brew on the Bay with Alpena Rotary Club

May

- Great Lakes Regional ROV Competition with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Lighthouse Tours begin at 40 Mile Point Light, Arts & Crafts Weekend
- Lady Michigan glass-bottom boat tours begin
- Light Up the Sky 5K Run/Walk

June

- Presque Isle Harbor Wooden Boat Show
- Spirit of the Blues Festival
- Besser Museum Log Cabin Days
- Long Lake Lights Festival

July

- Battle of the Paddles
- 4th of July Celebration
- Brown Trout Festival
- Art on the Bay
- Sunrise Side Wine & Food Festival

August

- Thunder Bay Car Show
- Alpena Antique Tractor & Steam Engine Show
- Stoneport 5K Run/Walk
- Alpena County Fair

September

- Posen Potato Festival
- Harrisville Harmony Arts & Crafts Show
- Chippewa Hills Mountain Bike Race
- Alpena Chamber of Commerce Grub Crawl
- Tunnel to Towers 5K Run/Walk
- Thunder Bay Winery Harvest Festival
- Thunder Bay Folk Festival

October

- Fall Harvest Fossil Festival at Besser Museum
- Apple Pumpkin Fun Day at Alpena Tractor & Steam Engine Showgrounds
- Farm to Fork Dinner at Thunder Bay Winery
- Sunrise Suds Tap Takeover with the Fresh Palate
- Zombie Crawl with the Fresh Palate
- Downtown Alpena Halloween Events

November

- Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk
- Jingle Bell Run
- Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

December

- Besser Museum Season of Light

Features... What visitors love

Learn more about the Alpena area's top adventures on the following pages. Go to VisitAlpena.com to start planning your trip!

Lady Michigan Glass-bottom boat, readies for passenger tours. Photo by Felicia Fullwood, @felicia_fullwood_photography.



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#Shipwreck Alley

Casey Stutzman free-dives the wreck of the Mason in North Bay, Presque Isle. Photo: Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Home to **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary**, the Alpena region is a mecca for exploring historic underwater treasures. Known as Shipwreck Alley, this area of Lake Huron is rich with maritime history and a prime destination for diving, snorkeling, free-diving, and paddling over shipwrecks.

It is estimated that nearly 200 shipwrecks lie within the boundary of the approximately 4,500-square-mile marine sanctuary. A marine sanctuary is like a national park in the water. A visit to the **Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center** (on land) shares the story of these wrecks, including everything from wooden schooners with masts still intact, to steel-hulled freighters. Discover the reason why this area is called “Shipwreck Alley”, explore the interactive exhibits that share information about sailing the Great Lakes, and see how marine science and robotics meld to create a perfect training space for exploring underwater assets.

The **Lady Michigan, glass-bottom boat** takes visitors out over some of the marine sanctuary’s shallow shipwrecks and offers a hosted experience to learn the stories of these wrecks first-hand. More information can be found at www.alpenashipwrecktours.com.

Pro Tip: Plan a back-up day in case of inclement weather. Also important to note, Lake Huron is the warmest of the big 3 Great Lakes, but can still take your breath away with that first dip under water.

Travel Log ... Shipwreck Exploration

Take a look at the fun ways you can experience **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary**. Check off all that you accomplish during your visit!

- Glass-bottom boat tour on *Lady Michigan*
- Climb aboard the life-size wooden schooner inside the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center (GLMHC)
- Attend a lecture hosted by maritime archeologists
- Walk along the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Trail
- View *Project Shiphunt* in the GLMHC’s state-of-the-art-theater
- Stand Up Paddleboard to a shallow shipwreck for a snorkel
- Free-dive shallow shipwrecks in 30 - 65 feet of water
- Scuba dive some of the unique shipwrecks like the *Monohansett*, resting just off the coast of Thunder Bay Island
- Attend the International Great Lakes Film Festival, showcasing film work highlighting our Great Lakes and oceans

#Pedal



Val Williams and friends enjoy a group trail ride at Norway Ridge Pathway in Alpena. Photo: Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

From city beach cruising, to mountain biking the woodland trails, to road cycling up to the lighthouses, the Alpena region offers **more than 100+ miles of groomed trails for biking**. The word of the day is *variety* when we're talking about trails in Northeastern Lower Michigan. There are paved paths, rocky rugged trails through wild forest land, and groomed single track that enchants with Spring breezes whispering through the pines, and falling leaves in Autumn.

The Alpena area offers **trails for all ages and ability levels**. Whether new to biking, or a seasoned pro, the environments surrounding Northeast Lower Michigan's trails are the real gems. Views of Lake Huron, a quiet natural woodland with singing birds to accompany, or a city pedal that passes outdoor art installations. You'll want to make sure you don't forget to stop and take a few pictures along the way to remember the experience. From fat tire and mountain bikes, to road cycle and recumbent, all bikes will find a trail worth traveling in Northeastern Lower Michigan.

Biking is a **year-round activity** in the Sanctuary of the Great Lakes. Each season offers a different experience; all worth collecting.

Pro Tip: Bring water, sunscreen, and bug spray for a more enjoyable experience. Don't forget to make sure you tell a safety check buddy where you are biking and when you expect to return.

Travel Log ... Pedal

How many of these rides can you check off your list?

- Pedal through the red pines at Norway Ridge Pathway
- Bike over the hilly terrain at Chippewa Hills Pathway
- Cruise along at a leisurely pace on the Alpena Bi-Path, 18+ miles of paved biking and walking trails that wind throughout the City of Alpena along the Lake Huron shoreline, the banks of Thunder Bay River, and connect to the Downtown district
- Get rugged at Rockport State Recreation Area. Test your resolve on the adventurous Rim Trail that wraps around an abandoned limestone quarry
- Road cycle through the countryside to see fall color
- Take a bikepacking trip along the North-Eastern State Trail (N.E.S.T.) that starts in Alpena and ends in Cheboygan
- Road cycle up to the Presque Isle Lighthouses
- Fat tire bike the sandy trails at Negwegon State Park

#Paddle



Felicia Fullwood and Andrew Curnow explore the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary. Photo: Felicia Fullwood Photography, @felicia_fullwood & @flying_plastic_bag.

There are **no shortage of waterways to paddle in Northeastern Lower Michigan**. The Alpena area is 66% water inland, and lies on the shore of Lake Huron. From big lake adventures like sea kayaking, SUP surfing and paddling, to river floats, wildlife sanctuary kayaking, and fishing, the region's more than 1,000 miles of shoreline offer endless gateways to exploration on the water.

Paddling is an ancient method of transportation as much as it is a relaxing opportunity to rub elbows with wildlife and spend some blue-sky time daydreaming while the current gives your paddling a boost. Meetings have even been held via kayak under a beautiful sunny sky. Sure beats the fluorescent lights of an office! Give it a try in Alpena.

You can also **find excitement** and challenge your abilities with a stand up paddle over a shipwreck, or a sea kayak paddle outing following the Lake Huron shoreline. **Find solace** during a sunrise canoe paddle on an inland lake, a sunset kayak paddle along Thunder Bay River, or bring the binoculars and watch for birds, turtles, and maybe even an otter or deer in the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary. There are countless ways you can mix and match your desired way to paddle with the Alpena Area's multiple inland lakes, rivers, and Lake Huron.

Pro Tip: To ensure a smooth experience, research your desired paddle destination and the upcoming weather report for your dates. Also, make sure the type of kayak being used fits the conditions, (i.e., use a sit-on-top, or sea kayak for Lake Huron adventures).

Travel Log ... Paddle Exploration

Collect more adventures and make more memories! How many of these paddle experiences can you check off the list?

- Sea kayak on Lake Huron past the Presque Isle Lighthouses (put in at the New PI Lighthouse or the Presque Isle harbor)
- Explore the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary via a relaxing rec kayak adventure around Island Park (put in at Duck Park)
- Float down Thunder Bay River with friends as you paddle through forests and fields (put in at Long Rapids Township Park - will need to plan ahead for transportation at pull-out area)
- Combine a paddle outing with fishing on Lake Winyah
- Gather up some snorkeling gear and take a Stand Up Paddleboard out to a shallow shipwreck in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

#Sinkholes #EarthCracks

Exploring Mystery Valley in Northeastern Lower Michigan. Photo: Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Deep within the forests of Northeastern Lower Michigan, lie a series of sinkholes and cracks in the Earth. Often referred to as “sunken forests,” sinkholes are found in areas with prolific karst geology. A simple way to explain how a sinkhole forms is to understand that when the roof of an underground cavern collapses, what we see on our side of the ground, is a concave bowl (sinking hole).

The Alpena region sits on top of one of the mid-west’s most unique layers of Devonian era limestone and shale. Below this layer of rock, lies the Detroit River group, which contains large amounts of evaporites anhydrite and gypsum. These minerals dissolve faster than limestone. As rain falls it absorbs carbon dioxide, making it slightly acidic. As this water percolates through the layers of earth, the carbonate bedrock slowly dissolves creating voids hundreds of feet below the surface. Over time, sediment and groundwater movement compromises the integrity of the overlying material which collapses, and a sinkhole is born. In the Alpena area there are sinkholes on land, in Lake Huron, and there is even a country campground at a wet sink, called Sunken Lake.

There are dozens of sinkholes in Northeastern Lower Michigan. A handful of which are open to the public. Accompanying the sinkholes, in a few places, are large cracks in the Earth, another feature of karst topography. Significant cracks can be found at Mystery Valley.

Pro Tip: Keep yourself safe. Do not enter sinkholes or Earth cracks. Keep a wide buffer between you and the edge for safety. Edges are unstable and can give way without warning.

Travel Log ... Sinkholes and Earth Cracks

Visit these popular sinkholes and see their unique differences:

- Stevens Twin Sinkholes, joined by a saddle-back ridge
- Bruski Sinkhole, more than 100 feet deep
- Mystery Valley sinkhole and cracks in the Earth
- Rockport State Recreation Area houses approx. a dozen sinkholes, including a wet sink
- Middle Island Sinkhole, in Lake Huron (can scuba, or free-dive this location)
- El Cajon sinkhole, in Lake Huron’s El Cajon Bay (can paddle over this location in a kayak, or snorkel it for more fun)
- Camp and swim at Sunken Lake County Park & Campgrounds

#History



Logging operation along Thunder Bay River. Archive Photo.

The early days of the Alpena region's settlement revolved around fishing the lakes, logging for white pine (green gold), and fur trapping. Alpena was once referred to as "**The Boomtown That Forgot to Bust.**" Early settlers determined this area a 4-season paradise, and decided to stay once the timber harvest began to wane. This passion for the natural beauty of the area led to the community as you can experience it today.

Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan holds a wealth of regional history, including a vast collection of Native American Naub-cow-zo-win disks, indigenous relics found nowhere else. From the first caretakers of this land, to our modern community today, the region's history still plays a role in present day society; reminding residents of, and sharing with visitors to the area, the evolution of the region.

As we work to honor those that sacrificed for the development of this community, the **Besser Museum thoughtfully combines Art, History, and Science to tell the story of how Northeastern Lower Michigan grew into a unique and thriving area** to live and visit. In their art gallery, the museum hosts works by local, national and world-renowned artists, including Salvador Dali. Explore natural sciences in the flora & fauna exhibit. The Historic Village on the grounds, and Avenue of Shops take you back to the 19th Century, a time when Alpena's sidewalks were made of lumber. Open year-round. More details listed on page 38.

Pro Tip: Walk the grounds and take in the outdoor art around the property.

Travel Log ... Historic Scavenger Hunt

At Besser Museum:

- Discover the difference between a River Rat and a Timber Jack
- Locate a lumber company brand
- Visit the blacksmith's shop
- Find Michigan's largest Petoskey Stone on display
- Learn where the Naub-cow-zo-win discs were found
- Watch a planetarium show about Dark Skies
- Dig for a Devonian Period fossils in the Lafarge Fossil Park
- Find Katherine V and see why she is special
- Witness the Foucault Pendulum
- Peek in the windows of the McKay Cabin
- Learn how Jesse Besser became known as Alpena's "Henry Ford"

#Fishing



Paul Gohlke casts a line for bass as the sun sets on Long Lake. Photo: Steve Jakubcin, @if_it_aint_brokeh_dont_fix_it.

Fishing was Alpena's first settled industry. In the early 1800's, a fishing village on Thunder Bay Island supplied fish to major cities around the Great Lakes, including Detroit. Fishing is still a major part of our DNA here in the Alpena area. With Alpena County being about 66% water, one is never more than a few minutes' drive from a fishable body of water.

With more than 1,000 miles of shoreline in the region, and over 300,000 acres of open water (not counting all of Lake Huron), diverse and **plentiful fishing opportunities are everywhere.**

There's a reason America's most popular fishing show on television, **Major League Fishing, has been to Alpena THREE times** to film entire seasons on Northeastern Lower Michigan's lakes. Plentiful and varied species, healthy habitats, and fresh water create the perfect environment for a fun fishing outing with family, a self-created tournament with friends, or a serious quest for big lake game fish.

Once the lines are up, **head to the nearest lake-front restaurant** (see listings on pgs. 44-48) for refreshments, to swap fish stories, or just to let the peacefulness of a day on the water sink in as the sun sets.

Pro Tip: Never take a banana on your boat. According to popular lore, it brings the angler bad luck.

Travel Log ... Fishing the Alpena Region

With so many inland lakes, rivers, plus Lake Huron, the fishing possibilities are endless in Northeast Lower Michigan. Live like a local angler and see if you can cast a line in these top fishing locations:

- Kayak fish Thunder Bay River's Lake Winyah
- Launch your bass boat onto Long Lake
- Fish around the islands in Grand Lake
- Head out for a Lake Huron experience with a charter boat captain
- Fish from the shore at 4-mile pond on Thunder Bay River
- Participate in the Reel Fun Ice Fishing tournament on Grand Lake
- Take the kids to Island Park and fish from the platforms
- Launch at the fairgrounds to troll the Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary
- Experience fishing the unique features of Fletcher Pond
- Give Hubbard Lake a try with friends and family



#Fossils

Along with limestone and sinkholes, the **Alpena region is a treasure trove of Devonian Period fossils**, some 400+ million years old. These geologic/biologic remains are believed to be from when the Earth was covered by a giant coral sea. Known as the “Age of the Fishes,” a variety of coral remnants can be found. Fish remnants are a bit harder to come by, as the only remains of fish are from those with a boney, armour-plated exoskeleton that could be preserved as fossilized remnants. If you find a fish fossil you’re encouraged to yell out “jackpot!”

Head out to **Rockport State Recreation Area for a real-life fossil dig expedition**. The 300-acre abandoned limestone quarry at the park is the site of a former stone mining operation that dissolved when the rock being mined was too riddled with fossils to be of use to the operation. Now, visitors to the park can take up to 25 lbs of fossils home with them for personal study. A rockhound’s dream come true!

Visit **Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan’s Lafarge Fossil Park** to learn more about different kinds of fossils to be found in the area. The museum is also home to the largest natural Petoskey stone in Michigan on public display.

Pro Tip: Make sure you know where your belongings are at all times if you put them down while on a quarry expedition. The terrain is good at hiding things in plain sight. Consider simple safety precautions like taking a flashlight, water, bug spray, sunscreen; and, make sure someone knows where you are going and how long you intend to be gone. Cell service at Rockport is spotty.

Travel Log ... Devonian Period Fossils

These pre-historic remnants of early sea-life fascinate even the most seasoned rock collectors. Download (at visitalpena.com), or pick up a Rockport State Recreation Area Adventure Guide, with a handy Fossil Identification Chart, from the Alpena Area Visitor Welcome Center at 420 N. Second Avenue. Then head out to the museum and/or Rockport to see how many of these fossilized creature remnants you can find:

- Crinoid stem segments
- Brachiopod
- Hexagonaria
- “Horn” Coral
- Rock specimen with multiple coral inclusions
- Largest natural Petoskey Stone on public display
- Large, colorful mural depicting a Devonian sea, teeming with life

#Trails #Beaches #Parks



Thompson's Harbor State Park & Dark Sky Preserve on Lake Huron. Photo: Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Michigan is known as the Great Trails State with more miles of trails than any other state in the nation, and the Alpena area certainly plays its part in this offering. With **more than 100+ miles of groomed trails**, there is something for every type of trail enthusiast. Whether you walk, hike, mountain bike, trail run, or watch birds and photograph wildflowers, the Alpena area has a trail or park especially for you.

From a leisurely stroll on the City of Alpena Bi-Path, to **hiking the sand dunes** at Thompson Harbor State Park, the paths are waiting for your footsteps, your bike tires, your cameras, and your sense of adventure.

The Alpena area has a higher per capita ratio of parks to people and that makes this region unique and special in that there are endless places to explore and commune with the natural environment. It is a little-known fact that there are sand dunes on the Lake Huron side of the state. Adding to the appeal of an East-side visit, are the miles of Lake Huron shoreline from Harrisville to Presque Isle and all the Alpena in between.

Pro Tip: With a collection of more than 30 parks, 1,000 miles of inland waterway and big Lake shoreline, and trailheads in the area, Alpena is base camp for relaxed outdoor adventure.

Travel Log... Trails, Parks, & Beaches

See how many of these unique experiences you can check off your list while visiting Northeastern Lower Michigan:

- A picnic at Ocqueoc Falls, the lower peninsula's most significant, and the nation's only, universally accessible falls system
- Hike the Besser Natural Area trail and discover remnants of the ghost village of Bell
- Watch the Autumn color paint the trees across the farmland from a viewing area at Manning Hill Park
- Have a blast at Starlite Beach & Rotary Splash Park
- Travel the Maritime Heritage Trail in the City of Alpena and learn more about local maritime history
- Take your four-legged friends to the Thomas Stafford Dog Park along Thunder Bay River
- Explore the ecosystems on Island Park, a 17-acre island connected to the mainland at Duck Park, by a hand-hewn covered wooden bridge

#WinterFun



A winter walk to see the Lake Huron Lighthouses draped in winter's cloak of sparkling snow. Photo: Sandy Blumenthal.

Michigan is draped in beauty when the winter months come calling. Alpena is a popular location for winter sports such as **snowshoeing, ice skating, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, fat tire biking, and snowmobiling**. More than 100+ miles of groomed trails, and more than 43,000 acres of State-managed forest land, offer peace and tranquility for those who love to bundle up and head out into the refreshing outdoors.

Snow days are every winter day when you live in the nature-based Alpena area. You don't have to wait for a blizzard to have an opportunity to enjoy winter activity. Winter in Northeastern Lower Michigan is like living in a snow globe. Head out to the trails after a day of meetings to take in a quick lunch-time hike along the shore of Lake Huron, or even drop and create a snow angel at any local park. **Absorb the youthful energy of winter activity to shake that cabin fever.**

Pro Tip: Dress in layers that can be adjusted for activity levels.

** Remember to stay off groomed cross-country ski trails (two grooved ski tracks etched in the snow), when hiking, biking, or snowshoeing trails.*

Travel Log ... Winter Fun

Layer up and head outside. Hot cocoa never tasted so good after an outing through the winter wonderland that is Northeastern Lower Michigan, December through March. How many of these winter activities can you check off your list?

- Snowshoe the 1-mile trail at Besser Natural Area, site of the ghost village of Bell, a former lumber town on Lake Huron's coast
- Take a hike on the trails around the New Presque Isle Lighthouse
- Cross-country ski the groomed trails at Norway Ridge Pathway
- Fat-tire bike the loops at Chippewa Hills Pathway
- Lace up your ice skates (or rent) for a glide at Northern Lights Arena
- Strap on the snowshoes and head into the wilds of Rockport State Recreation Area for an adventurous winter hike
- Bring your ice fishing gear and try your luck at Fletcher Pond
- Take in a winter sunrise over Lake Huron at the City of Alpena Municipal Boat Harbor
- Grab a hot cocoa to-go and take a walk around Downtown Alpena to visit the boutique shops, and take in the street art

A photograph of a starry night sky over a rocky shore. The sky is filled with numerous stars, and a large, dark silhouette of a tree stands in the middle ground. The foreground is a rocky beach. The text "#Dark Skies" is overlaid in white, handwritten-style font.

#Dark Skies

The beauty of a starry night at Rockport State Recreation Area. Photo: Matthew Couch, @youngmatthewcouch.

Alpena is centrally located to **3 of the State of Michigan's newest official Dark Sky Preserve Parks**. Are you a storm chaser? Stargazer? Night sky photographer? The Alpena area's Dark Sky Preserves have among the lowest light pollution readings taken in Great Lakes communities. This allows for spectacular views of the stars, constellations, planets, Milky Way, and views of the Northern Lights as seen by the naked eye.

As the world continues to become more developed, there are generations of children growing up who have never seen a natural night sky due to excessive light pollution in cities across the globe. **Places where you can witness the unique light of night (sky full of stars), are becoming few and far between.** The protections these parks in the Alpena area have received from the Michigan Legislature ensures that the pristine quality of night time sky viewing will be protected in these locations (these protections also support nocturnal animal habitats).

May we have this Moon Dance? These Dark Sky Preserve parks are the perfect location for observing the moon in all her phases. **A sky overcome by the light of a full moon is a spectacular experience.**

Pro tip: Schedule a few nights for dark sky viewing to leave wiggle room in the event of sudden cloudy skies or inclement weather. Use a red light filter on flashlights so your night vision won't be compromised for stargazing.

Travel Log... Dark Sky Preserve Parks

Rack up some Dark Sky time with these experiences:

- Start your Dark Sky journey at Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan by taking in a show in the digital planetarium theater
- Take a seat on the sand dunes at Thompson's Harbor State Park and watch the Milky Way fill in over Lake Huron
- Gather at Rockport State Recreation Area with telescope in hand to zero in on Saturn's rings or Jupiter's moons
- If the KP Index is favorable and the sky is clear, head to Thompson's or Rockport for a spectacular view of the Northern Lights
- Remote and pristine, Negwegon State Park will treat you to a quiet show of the cosmos for constellation viewing
- Keeping close to the city center? Head to Mich-E-Ke-wis Park for city nighttime sky viewing over Lake Huron

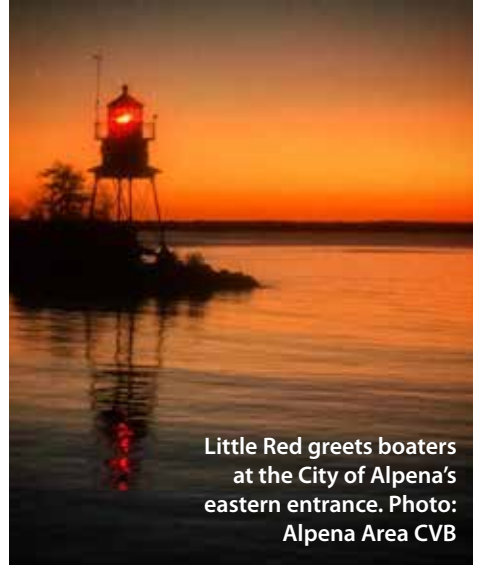
Sentinels of the Great Lakes

Lighthouses, Life Saving Stations, and Range Lights

Alpena's "Little Red" Beacon

Mouth of the Thunder Bay River (Prentiss Street, best seen from breakwall at the Alpena Municipal Boat Harbor)

Little Red is the only lighthouse within the City of Alpena. The steel skeletal-style lighthouse is viewable from Alpena's boat harbor and breakwall. Built in 1914, it replaced earlier wooden structures which guided ships to safe port since the late 1800's. Originally, the marker was a lantern on a wooden post. Little Red was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.



Little Red greets boaters at the City of Alpena's eastern entrance. Photo: Alpena Area CVB

Old Presque Isle Lighthouse

5295 E. Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle,
(989) 595-6979 or (989) 595-2752,
www.presqueislelighthouses.org/

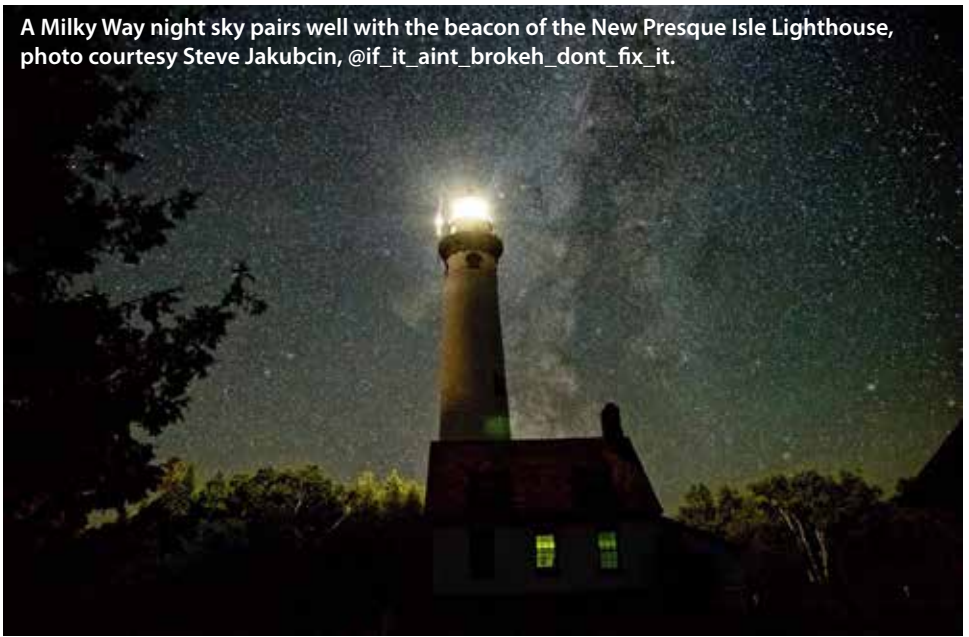
The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse is one of the oldest surviving publicly accessible

lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Built in 1840, the harbor light operated until 1871 when the keeper transferred to a new, taller lighthouse a mile to the north (the New Presque Isle Lighthouse). Visitors can climb the hand-hewn stone steps of the 30-foot-tall tower for a beautiful view of Lake Huron and Presque Isle Harbor. They can also ring the 1896 bell from the Lansing City Hall clock tower and pose for a photo with head and hands in an old set of stocks. The keeper's dwelling is a hands-on museum and gift shop. The buildings and park grounds are open to the public, mid-May through mid-October. Open 7 days a week from June 15 through September 3 and open Friday - Monday the rest of the season. Grounds are free; a nominal fee is charged for tower climbs.



The Old Presque Isle Lighthouse is the oldest accessible lighthouse on the Great Lakes. Photo courtesy Felicia Fullwood, @felicia_fullwood_photography.

A Milky Way night sky pairs well with the beacon of the New Presque Isle Lighthouse, photo courtesy Steve Jakubcin, @if_it_aint_brokeh_dont_fix_it.



New Presque Isle Lighthouse

4500 E. Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle, (989) 595-9917 or (989) 595-2752, www.presqueislelighthouses.org/

The New Presque Isle Lighthouse was built in 1870 and is the tallest lighthouse tower accessible by the public on the Great Lakes. The original 3rd Order Fresnel Lens, a gift shop, and museum displays are located in the keeper's quarters. Visitors may climb the 130 steps to the top of the tower for a breathtaking, panoramic view. Situated on a 99-acre township park featuring a playground, picnic area, pavilion, and nature trails. The buildings and grounds are open to the public mid-May through mid-October. Open 7 days a week from June 15 through September 3, and open Friday - Monday the rest of the season. Grounds are free; a nominal fee is charged for tower climbs. The 1905 Keeper's House, located on the grounds of the New PI Lighthouse, has been fully restored and serves as a museum operated by the PI Township Museum Society.

Presque Isle Harbor Range Light

East Grand Lake Road north of 638 HWY, Presque Isle, www.presqueislelighthouses.org/

When the Old PI Lighthouse went dark, its function of safely guiding mariners into Presque Isle Harbor was taken over by the Range Light. These two beacons put mariners in the harbor channel, avoiding the shallows to either side. After more than 140 years, the Range Light remains an active aid to navigation. The site is a park owned by Presque Isle Township.

40-Mile Point Lighthouse

County Park Road, Rogers City www.40milepointlighthouse.org

Previous to 1897, the Lake Huron coast between Thunder Bay and Mackinaw was dark, thus a need for a light station at Forty Mile Point ensuring mariners would never be out of viewing range of a lighthouse. The light is 40 miles sailing distance from Mackinaw Point, and Thunder Bay. Follow "Shipwreck Trail" to see the part of the Joseph S. Fay

remaining on the beach; one of the 27 wooden ships that sank during a fierce storm in 1905. Other features include the steamer Calcite's pilot house, a picnic area, swimming beach and nature trails.

Sturgeon Point Lighthouse

Point Road, Harrisville

www.alconahistoricalsociety.com

Until the early 20th Century, northern Michigan was almost completely dependent on waterborne commerce for its needs. Thousands of vessels and steamers plied the lakes at a time when there were almost no navigational aids to guide them along the dangerous coastline with its treacherous rocky shoals and reefs. One such reef extends 1-1/2 miles out into Lake Huron at Sturgeon Point. In 1869, the Lighthouse Service began construction of the lighthouse to mark this hazard, with the light becoming operational in the spring of 1870. The keeper's house is now a museum open to the public on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day Weekend. Grounds open year-round.

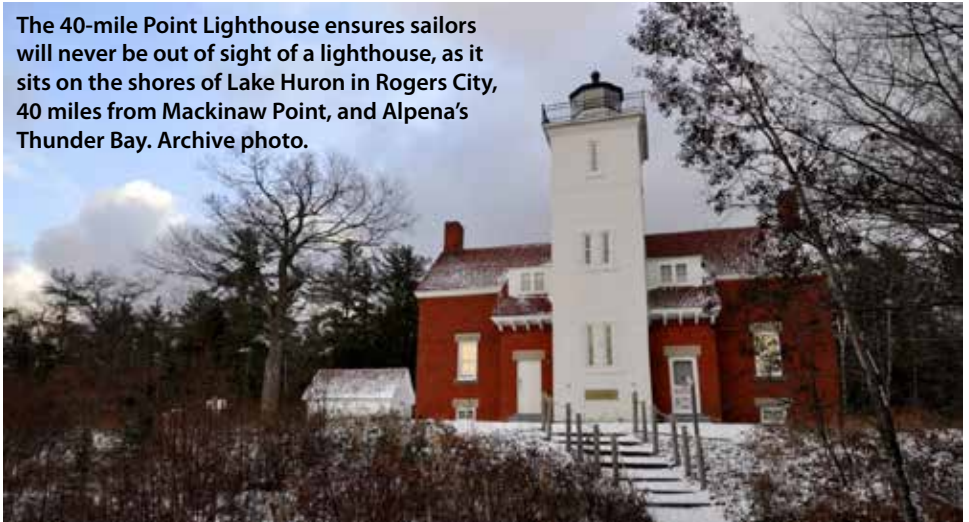
Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse & Life Saving Station

Thunder Bay Island is situated just off the coast of North Point, in Lake Huron. In 1846, the first store in Alpena County was built on the island to support a fishing community, which harvested twelve thousand barrels of fish that year. At this time, the island had 160 residents, and operated a fleet of 31 fishing boats. The first light tower established on the island was constructed in 1832, making it the second oldest light tower still standing on Lake Huron. The station was placed on the National Historic Register in 1984. The lighthouse property is an Alpena Township Park. The light can be seen via boat.

Middle Island Light Station

Middle Island Light Station is located in Lake Huron, halfway between Thunder Bay Island and Presque Isle Harbor. There are 7 buildings on the island, including a light tower, keeper's quarters, an oil house, tool garage, a fog horn building and two brick privies. The light is 78 ft. and can be seen from 17 miles. A sinkhole in Lake Huron is located near the island.

The 40-mile Point Lighthouse ensures sailors will never be out of sight of a lighthouse, as it sits on the shores of Lake Huron in Rogers City, 40 miles from Mackinaw Point, and Alpena's Thunder Bay. Archive photo.



Listings... Where to sleep, savor, sip, create, and play

Learn more about local restaurants, places to stay, where to have fun.



Stay, Pg 32-37



**History, Art,
Culture,
Pg 38-39**



**Attractions,
Outdoor Recreation,
Pg 40-43**



**Food & Drink,
Pg 44-48**



**Venues & Catering,
Pg 52-53**



Shopping, Pg 49-50

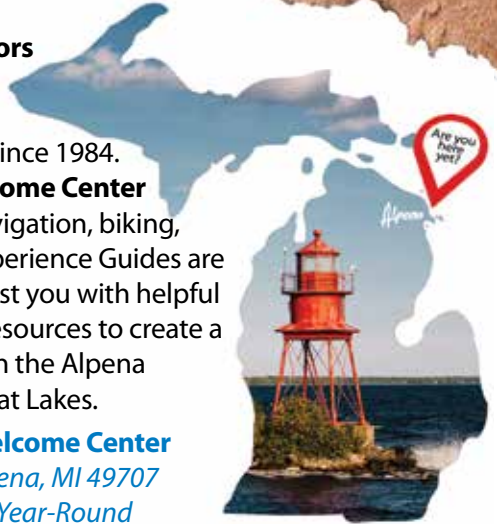
Maps & Wayfinding

The **Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau** has been guiding visitors toward unforgettable Northeastern Lower Michigan regional adventures since 1984. Stop by the **Alpena Area Visitor Welcome Center** for more **local and state maps** for navigation, biking, boating, fishing, and driving. Local Experience Guides are available to answer questions and assist you with helpful information, Adventure Guides, and resources to create a successful and enjoyable experience in the Alpena microplitan area; Sanctuary of the Great Lakes.

Alpena Area Visitor Welcome Center

420 N. Second Ave., Alpena, MI 49707

M-F, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Year-Round



Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills Pathway are great destinations for a bike, hike, snowshoe, x-country ski, mushroom hunt, bird watch, and listening to nature:



*Lake and trail Maps courtesy Fishweb.com. Visit their website for more information

Popular Lakes for inland fishing, swimming, boating, floating, and enjoying the majesty of Northeastern Lower Michigan:

Long Lake



Grand Lake



Fletcher Pond



Hubbard Lake



Rest Your Head Lodging Guide

Featured Hotels, Motels & Resorts

40 Winks Motel & Vacation Rentals

1021 S. State St., Alpena, (989) 354-5622
www.40WinksMotel.com

The 40 Winks, located across from Lake Huron's Starlite Beach and Rotary Splash Park, has been owned by the Barnes family since 1984. Free wifi, cable tv, refrigerators, and in-room coffee. New vacation suites also available for 3-day stays or longer; which include separate bedroom and living space, open kitchen, full-size fridge, microwave, induction cooktop, coffee maker, toaster, dishes, and utensils.

Alpena Days Inn

1496 M-32-West, Alpena, (989) 356-6118
www.daysinn.com/hotel/04670

Free high speed wi-fi, indoor pool, whirlpool, deluxe spa rooms, continental breakfast, meeting/banquet space up to 50 people. Coffee, irons, refrigerators, hair dryers in all rooms. Close to high school and shopping centers.

Alpena Resorts

1285 M-32, Alpena, (989) 356-9087
www.alpenaresorts.com

Indoor heated pool, hot tub, fitness center, internet, cable, HBO, coffee, microwave, refrigerator, ironing board, blow dryer, and shampoo in all rooms. Free breakfast bar featuring Belgian waffles and sausage, gravy & biscuits. Restaurant adjacent. Close to high school, and shopping centers.

Key

- Water-front, water-view
- Restaurants within walking
- Meeting/Banquet space
- Pets allowed
- Breakfast
- On-site dining
- Picnic play area
- Pool
- Internet

Alpena Water's Edge Motel

1000 State St., Alpena, (989) 354-5495

Magnificent view on the shores of Lake Huron. Superior rooms with free cable, wi-fi, and coffee. Choose from 4 bedroom, villa; single rooms with king or queen beds and kitchen; doubles with refrigerators and microwaves. Enjoy the beach, bonfires, and water sports.

Big Bear Lodge

2052 US 23 South, Alpena, (989) 354-8573
www.facebook.com/BigBearAlpena/

Big Bear Lodge is a comfortable mom & pop accommodation, across from the beautiful sunrise shore of Lake Huron and Mich-E-Ke-wis Park. Cozy, clean bedrooms have vintage 1950's-style tiled bathrooms, and all usual amenities. Ample parking, garden, picnic area, and playground.

Dew Drop Inn Motel

2469 French Rd., Alpena, (989) 356-4414
www.ddimotel.com

One mile north of the hospital on US-

The breakwall at the City of Alpena boat harbor is a perfect place to catch a daily sunshow. Photo: Stacy VanCarr.



23 North, these AAA approved rooms feature refrigerators, free high speed internet access, over 120 channels including HBO, premium in-room coffee, and air conditioning. Rooms are ground floor with park-at-your-door convenience; extra space for boat, RV, or trailer. Close to grocery, Aplex, and hospital.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites



225 River Street, Alpena, (989)340-1800
www.hiealpena.com

Located on Thunder Bay River in the heart of downtown, this hotel features oversized guest rooms and suites, luxurious furnishings; and expected amenities including a microwave and refrigerator. Complimentary Express Start hot breakfast bar with trademark cinnamon rolls and make-your-own-pancakes. Free wifi throughout hotel and meeting rooms, HD tvs, indoor pool, fitness center, 24-hr business center, and guest laundry.

Ramada Alpena



1000 US-23 North, Alpena, (989) 356-2151
www.RamadaAlpena.com

Full-service hotel featuring an indoor recreation area with an indoor pool,

sauna, whirlpool, game room, putting green, ping pong, and pool tables. Restaurant and bar on premises. Meeting/banquet space up to 250 people. Free wifi. Located close to community college, Aplex events center, and hospital.

Fletcher's Landing



5614 Emils Landing Road, Hillman,
(989) 742-4166

Fish and relax on the shores of Fletcher Pond, one of Michigan's premier fishing destinations. 14 modern 1- and 2-bedroom cabins to fit any size group. Satellite TV in rooms. Open year-round. Boat and motor rental, bait and tackle shop on site. Heated ice shanties available for rent. Excellent bass and pike fishing.

Jack's Landing Resort



20836 Tennis Road, Hillman, (989) 742-4370
www.jackslanding.com

On the shores of scenic Fletcher Pond, modern cabins, lodge with wifi, and camping on-site. Restaurant, bait and tackle, and propane on-site. Boats, motors, and ice shanty rentals available, as well as RV storage. Excellent fishing and bird watching.

Rest Your Head Lodging Guide

Featured Campgrounds & RV

Alpena County Fairgrounds

625 S. 11th Ave., Alpena, (989) 356-1847
www.AlpenaCounty.org

Located on Thunder Bay River in the heart of the city. Offers easy access to shopping, dining, and fishing. 69 campsites with electricity. Restrooms, showers, dump station, boat launch, playground, Bi- Path. Activity building on-site available to rent.

Beaver Lake Campgrounds & County Park

17354 Beaver Lake Park Rd., Lachine,
(989)379-4462, www.AlpenaCounty.org

56 sites on Beaver Lake. Amenities include 30 & 50 amp service, wi-fi, restrooms with showers, boat launch, swimming, fishing, picnic area, play ground, and dump station. Pavilion for rent.

Jack's Landing Resort

20836 Tennis Rd., Hillman, (989)742-4370
www.jackslanding.com

On the shores of scenic Fletcher Pond. 30 campsites, E/W to rustic. Showers, restrooms, dump/fill stations, propane, boat ramp/launch assist. Restaurant, store, boats, motors, bait and tackle.

Long Lake Campgrounds & County Park

10002 Hinks Park Rd., Alpena,
(989) 595-2401, www.AlpenaCounty.org

80 sites with E/W, and 25 rustic sites. Picnic site, swimming, boat launch, fishing, hiking, playground, showers, restrooms, dump station. Pavilion rental.

Ossineke State Forest Campground

US-23-S, Ossineke, (south of City of Alpena),
(989) 734-2543

42 sites for tent and small trailer use. Spaced out along Lake Huron. No reservations. Facilities include day-use area, tables and grill, sandy beaches, and barrier-free boardwalk to Lake Huron. Rustic campground includes vault toilets and potable water from a hand pump. Supervised by the MDNR.

Sunken Lake Campground & County Park

10300 South Leer Rd., Posen,
(989) 379-3055, www.AlpenaCounty.org

A "wet sinkhole" lake with 56 sites, dump station, electricity, restrooms, shower, picnic area, hiking, playground, swimming, fishing, boat launch (no wake), and pavilion rental.

Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground

Indian Reserve Rd., Alpena, (989)734-2543

10 sites for tent and small trailer use. Located on Thunder Bay River. Small boat launch, hiking, vault toilets, and potable water from hand pump. No reservations. Supervised by the MDNR.

Other Campground & RV

- Campers Cove RV Park & Canoe Livery
- Paul Bunyan Family Kampground
- Thunder Bay Resort
- Thunder Bay RV Park & Campground

Rest Your Head Lodging Guide

Featured Cabins, Cottages, Resorts, Bed & Breakfast

At Brothers Bay Vacation Home

17293 Brothers Bay Rd., Alpena
(586) 588-4747, www.atbrothersbay.com

From beach-goers to snowmobilers, this is a year-round vacation home to enjoy Michigan's 4 seasons. Located on Long Lake at Brothers Bay Point, offering panoramic views. Sleeps 4-5 people comfortably with 2 bedrooms, full kitchen, washer/dryer, BBQ's (gas & charcoal), picnic area, Roku/Direct TV, wi-fi, and heated slate floors for cold months. Sandy beach for swimming, private docks with 2 lifts, space for parking a trailer. Canoe, paddleboat, rowboat, and fishing kayak free for use.

Hemlock Hills on Mill Pond - The Cabin

14018 Leer Road, Posen, (989) 341-4777
www.hemlockhillsonmillpond.com

Year-round 5 bedroom, 3 ½ Bath, updated in 2016, custom luxury home that will sleep up to 13 people, on more than 50 acres. Gourmet kitchen, game room with pool table, laundry room. Unique custom features throughout the fully furnished home. Bedding and linens provided. Outdoor kitchen, patio, deck and 2nd story balcony overlooking Thunder Bay River. Fire pit (wood supplied). Walking trails, 180' boardwalk along Mill Pond. Watch wildlife, or a perfect sunset. No Pets. Kayaks, paddle boat, canoe included.

Hemlock Hills on Mill Pond - The Cottage on Pine Lane

5653 Pine Lane, Posen, (989) 341-4777

www.hemlockhillsonmillpond.com

The cottage resides on the Thunder Bay River within 500' of Sunken Lake. Open floor plan, with 1 full bath, sleeps up to 8 people. Full kitchen/laundry. Secluded fully-furnished home with bedding and linens provided. Fire pit (wood supplied). Pets welcome. Kayaks with rental.

Churchill Pointe Inn

5700 Bennett Rd., Hubbard Lake, (989) 727-2020, www.churchillpointeinn.com

Historic country inn located directly on the shores of Hubbard Lake. All rooms have cable, air conditioning, private bath & wi-fi. Boat docking available. Restaurant & bar on site. Also features picnic/play area, meeting/banquet space.

Fletcher's Landing

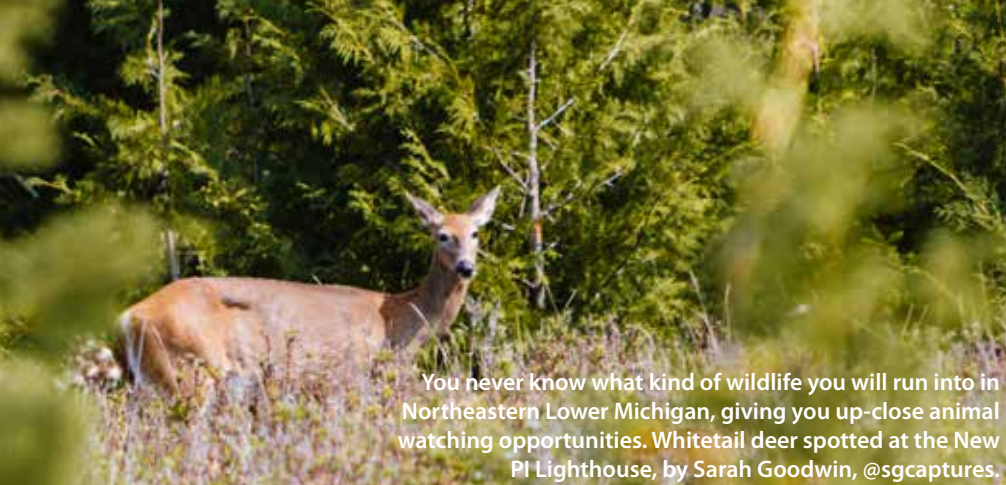
5614 Emils Landing Road, Hillman, (989) 742-4166, www.fletcherslanding.com

Fish and relax on the shores of Fletcher Pond - one of Michigan's premier fishing destinations. 14 modern 1-, and 2-bedroom cabins, satellite TV, fit any size group. Open year-round. Boat & motor rental. Bait and tackle shop. Heated ice shanties. Excellent bass and pike fishing. Pets welcome.

Hemlock Hills on Mill Pond - The Mill House

14018 Leer Road and 13796 Leer Road, Posen, (989) 341-4777
www.hemlockhillsonmillpond.com

5 Bedroom 2 ½ bathroom country



You never know what kind of wildlife you will run into in Northeastern Lower Michigan, giving you up-close animal watching opportunities. Whitetail deer spotted at the New Pt Lighthouse, by Sarah Goodwin, @sgcaptures.

home that sleeps up to 10 people. Fully furnished with bedding and linens provided. Full kitchen with laundry room. On the Historic Elowsky Grist Mill property with a beautiful view of the Thunder Bay River from the front porch. Property is available for weddings, corporate and private events. Fire pit with wood. Pets welcome. Kayaks, paddle boat with rental.

Jack's Landing Resort

20836 Tennis Rd., Hillman, (989) 742-4370
website: www.jackslanding.com

Located on the shores of scenic Fletcher Pond. Modern cabins, lodge with wi-fi, and camping sites. Restaurant, bait and tackle store, propane. Boats, motors, and ice shanty rentals. RV storage. Pets welcome. Picnic play area.

Lake Front Cottage

14233 Orchard Point Road, Alpena,
(989) 278-0611 or (989) 657-1672
<https://lakefront-cottages.business.site/>

Located on Long Lake, this clean, charming two-bedroom cottage sleeps 6, with two queen beds, one sofa bed. Private lot with sandy beach and dock. Great swimming and fishing- perfect for kids. Amenities: fire pit, 14ft. aluminum boat, swings for adults & kids, horseshoes,
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volleyball, badminton court, grill, picnic table, lawn chairs, storage shed for fishing equipment, covered porch, wi-fi, TV, radio, Netflix, hot water & shower, stove, fridge, microwave, cooking utensils, and more.

Oakapiney Beach Cottages

9611 U.S. 23 South, Ossineke, (734) 395-5583
or (989) 471-2489, www.oakapiney.com

Five clean log cabins, four 2-bedroom and one 1-bedroom, all with full kitchens. Located on 4 peaceful, wooded acres, including 200' of beautiful, sandy Lake Huron beach. Excellent swimming and beach walking. Basketball hoop, play area, fire pit, charcoal grills, wireless internet access. Linens are not provided. Open May-November, weather depending.

The Parker House

24732 US Highway 23 South, Presque Isle,
(989) 595-6484, <https://theparkerhouse.biz/>

Open year-round, The Parker House accommodates summer vacationers, winter ice anglers, and everyone in between for Spring and Autumn seasons. This northern Michigan resort features on-site restaurant, ice cream shop (seasonal), and cabins for rent. Located on Long Lake, popular for spectacular sunrises, sunsets, fishing, and boating.

Presque Isle Lodge A Bed and Breakfast Inn

8211 E. Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle, (989)
595-6970 (summer), 231-929-4684 (winter),
www.presqueisledodge.com

Built in 1920, historic Presque Isle Lodge is on the National Register of Historic Places and contains the largest known collection of Habitant Log Furniture. Full breakfast served. Private Grand Lake access with boat dock. The property is tucked into the Northern Michigan landscape, offering relaxation and adventure. Other amenities: internet, picnic/play area, wedding/meeting/banquet space. May - September.

Hemlock Hills on Mill Pond - The Sunken Lake Cottage

6121 Evergreen Drive, Posen (989) 341-4777,
www.hemlockhillsonmillpond.com

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom Lake Cottage updated in 2019, sleeps up to 10 people. Fully furnished with bedding and linens provided. Outdoor Living area with gas grill overlooking beautiful and tranquil Sunken Lake. Fire pit with wood. Picnic/play area. Pets welcome.

Wes-Point Shores Resort

5315 Long Rapids Road, Alpena,
(989) 354-8438, www.wespointshores.com

Seven miles from Alpena with an abundance of activities, Wes-Point Shores Resort offers fully furnished 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom cottages along with two, 29 ft. campers that sleep 4-6 people, and one full RV hookup. Private docks with boats included in rental. Children's play area. Located on Thunder Bay River's Lake Winyah. Excellent fishing location.

Other Cabins, Cottages, Resorts, Bed & Breakfast Listings

- Alpena Beach Cabana
- Brothers Bay Retreat
- Bell Bay Hideaway
- Bell Bay Resort
- Bell Bay Shores Summer Home
- Country Home
- Embers Cabin
- Fireside Inn
- Grand Lake Resort

- Grand Lake Waterfront Home
- Grand Sunrise Lakefront Family Home
- Long Lake Cabin
- Long Lake Hideaway
- Loonsong Cottage & Bunkhouse
- Neumann's Loafers Retreat
- Presque Isle Resort
- Shelby Resort
- Smigelski Cottage
- Sunrise Cottages Vacation Home
- The Long Lake House
- Thunder Bay Resort
- Trelawny Resort

Fall splendor on the shores of Alpena's Long Lake. Photo: @kathleenbowerphotography



Art, Theater, Museums, Library

Alpena County George N. Fletcher Library

211 N. First Ave., Alpena, (989) 356-6188,
www.alpenalibrary.org

Home to one of the largest privately amassed collections of 19th century Great Lakes ship photographs and records in the world. Wide variety of adult and children's programs, online tutoring, downloadable audio and e-books. Special collections, genealogy, best-sellers, large-print, audio books, movies, music, wi-fi, word processors. The library recently underwent a modernization renovation.

Art in The Loft at Gallery 109

109 N. Second Ave., Alpena, (989) 356-4877,
www.artintheloft.org

Art in the Loft at Gallery 109 is the region's largest fine arts center and gallery featuring the work of many local, regional, and nationally recognized artists. Reasonably priced artwork is available in a wide range of media. Over 30 artists exhibit their work in the gallery each season. The Loft offers a variety of art and culinary workshops from beginner to professional - for all ages, and a variety of special events are held throughout the year. Art in the Loft is open for two primary exhibit seasons, Summerview Season, which runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day and Winterview Season, which runs from mid-November until the end of January. Additional special theme juried exhibits are also held annually. A month-long Young Artists exhibit is held during the months of April and May.

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Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan

491 Johnson St., Alpena, (989) 356-2202,
www.bessermuseum.org

Exhibits include *People of Lakes and Forests* illustrating regional Native American heritage, an industrial cityscape of late 19th Century Alpena in the Avenue of Shops, and the 19th Century Historic Village with five original local historic buildings relocated to museum grounds. Regional AAM Accredited Museum focusing on art, history, and science. Keep all the fossils you find in the Lafarge Fossil Park exhibit featuring 350 million-year-old local geologic remains, and learn how the local Lafarge Cement mining operation uses limestone in cement. Learn the history behind how Besser Company revolutionized the world-wide masonry block making industry. The museum features the only full-dome digital planetarium in Northern Michigan. Modern and fine Art exhibitions. Open year-round (small admission fee).

Brush Creek Mill

121 S. State St., Hillman, (989) 742-2527
www.brushcreekmill.com

At Brush Creek Mill, the mission is to celebrate local history, promote and provide a learning environment for the community, and prepare for a sustainable future. Brush Creek Mill is a self-supporting, non-profit history museum and cultural center in Hillman, with various activities, fundraisers, and creative opportunities for the arts. Open year-round.

Brush Up Pottery & Art Studio

150 N. State St., Alpena, (989) 354-4222
www.studiobrushup.com

Brush Up Pottery & Art Studio (formerly known as Cobbygoose) is a paint your own pottery, canvas, and wood studio. Providing you and your family with hours of fun ranging from ceramics, canvas, pallet boards, mixed media, wood, clay and more. Stop in anytime to paint or sign up for one of our many workshops.

Great Lakes

Maritime Heritage Center

500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena (989) 356-8805,
www.thunderbay.noaa.gov

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary preserves a national treasure, nearly 200 historic shipwrecks off the coast of Northeast Lower Michigan. Lake Huron's cold, fresh water preserves many of these shipwrecks intact and in water depths ranging from a few inches to 300 feet. Explore the history and archaeology of these wrecks at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, the Sanctuary's 20,000 sq. ft. river-front headquarters. Exhibits on Great Lakes maritime history and shipwrecks include the "Exploring the Shipwreck Century" exhibit, where visitors can experience elements of a traditional maritime museum combined with a hands-on discovery center, featuring life-sized recreations of an historic Great Lakes schooner and shipwreck sites, artifact displays, and interactive learning stations on technology, diving, and Great Lakes ecology. Also featuring a gift shop, state-of-the-art education spaces, high-definition theater, and archaeological conservation lab. Admission is free.

*Art, Theater, Museums, Library
Other Listings*

My Glass Wings

106 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 358-9464,
www.myglasswings.com

My Glass Wings Stained Glass Studio & Gifts has been in Downtown Alpena since 2004. The studio does custom stained glass and repairs of stained glass. Classes run year-round, three days a week, with two different time choices daily. Additional classes/workshops are offered as needed or scheduled. Art glass supplies available for purchase.

Outdoor Art Installations

www.thunderbayarts.org

With colorful murals on the outside of buildings, sculptures along the 18.5 mile Bi-Path walking trail, and interpretive display kiosks and shipwreck scrimms along the Maritime Heritage Trail, Alpena is often called an "art town". Check out the permanent art installations throughout the community for inspiration, or just to appreciate the creativity of the artists. Don't forget to stop and take a photo with the A-L-P-E-N-A letters at Mich-E-Ke-wis Park.

Thunder Bay Art Gallery

127 W. Chisholm St., Alpena, (989) 356-6678,
www.thunderbayarts.org

Thunder Bay Arts Gallery is a collective of artisans' work on view and for sale, located on Chisholm Street between 2nd and 3rd Ave. in the heart of Downtown Alpena. The gallery exhibits a number of artists from the local community alongside other visual arts initiatives such as YouthCORE and Featured Artist rotating exhibits and open houses. The gallery is open to the public.

- Alpena Civic Theater
- B Royal Movie Theater

Outdoor Recreation & Attractions

Attractions, Outdoor Recreation, Equip. Rentals

Attractions

Cedar Panning Co.

4820 French Rd., Alpena, (989) 464-7718,
www.cedarpanningco.com

An afternoon of adventure and discovery await at Cedar Panning Co. Learn how to use an authentic outdoor sluice and uncover amazing treasures like amethyst, fluorite, moonstone, crystal points, calcite, citrine, pyrite (fools gold), fossils, arrowheads and more.

Dinosaur Gardens, LLC

11160 U.S. 23 South, Ossineke,
(989) 471-5477 or (877) 823-2408,
www.dinosaurgardensllc.com

Features hand-made reproductions of more than 27 life-size dinosaurs, which reside in a deep forest setting. The 24-acre park has the beautiful Devil's River flowing through and along the 18-hole mini-golf course. Enjoy a 50-topping frozen yogurt bar, miners sluice, and gift shop with a great selection of dinosaur toys. Special rates for school groups, birthday parties, and guided wagon tours. Combo packages are also offered for golf and tours. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Other Attractions

- ARZO Sports & Fun Park
- Elk Viewing Carriage/Sleigh Ride, Gourmet Dinner & Wine Tasting at Thunder Bay Resort, Hillman
- Laser Team Challenge - Laser Tag
- Lee's Miniature Golf

Bike Rentals

Alpena Pedal & Paddle Rentals

1302 S. State Ave. (US 23 South), Alpena,
www.alpenapedalandpaddle.com

Men's and women's vintage-style beach cruisers. Helmets included. Visit the Alpena Pedal & Paddle Outpost at the Duck Park or book online at AlpenaPedalandPaddle.com. Start your adventure on the adjoining 18.5 mile long Alpena Bi-Path or grab a map and head downtown for an afternoon of shopping and dining. Visit the website for online scheduling. Canoes & kayaks also available.

Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Bike Rental

500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena, (989) 356-8805,
ext. 18, www.thunderbay.noaa.gov

Explore the Maritime Heritage Trail, follow the 18.5 mile long Alpena Bi-Path, or head out on your own self-guided tour of Alpena on bike starting at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. A great selection of Raleigh bikes are available for hourly or daily rental. Burley "tag-along" child trailer also available.

Boat Rentals & Marinas

Churchill Pointe Inn

5700 Bennett Rd., Hubbard Lake, (989) 727-2020

Pontoon boat rental available on Hubbard Lake. Please call to reserve.

Fletcher's Landing

5614 Emils Landing Road, Hillman,
(989) 742-4166, www.fletcherslanding.com

Fish and relax on the shores of Fletcher Pond - a premier fishing destination. Open year round. Boat, motor rental. Bait, tackle shop. Heated ice shanties.

Jack's Landing Resort

20836 Tennis Rd., Hillman, (989) 742-4370
www.jackslanding.com

Located on the shores of scenic Fletcher Pond. Restaurant, bait and tackle store, propane available on-site. Boats, motors, and ice shanty rentals.

Other Boat Rentals & Marinas

- Dodge Marina & Storage
- Grand Lake Marine
- Hubbard Lake Marine
- Viking Marine

Canoe, Kayak, Stand Up-Paddle Board Rentals

Alpena Pedal & Paddle Rentals

*Duck Park at Johnson & US 23 N, Alpena,
www.alpenapedalandpaddle.com*

Canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddleboards available for hourly, daily, and off-site rental from Duck Park on Thunder Bay River's 500-acre Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary. All rentals come with safety equipment. Bikes also available for rent. Private group excursions are available upon request. Stop by the Outpost at the park, or book online. Memorial Day - Labor Day.

Other Canoe, Kayak, SUP

- Alpena Adventures
- Campers Cove RV Park and Canoe Livery
- Dodge Marine & Storage

Fishing Charters & Bait

Clem's Bait & Tackle

204 N. 9th Ave. Alpena, MI 49702
(989) 354-2070

Serving Northeastern Michigan since 1970, Clem's is a local hotspot for the water enthusiast with a large and nostalgic selection of tackle and gear offering live bait year-round. The only supplier of Canadian-made Baffin boots in the area (keeping you warm at -150 degrees Fahrenheit) Also offering specially designed logo wear and the best local expertise on all things fishing, including regular workshops and trainings.

Fletcher's Landing

5614 Emils Landing Rd., Hillman,
(989) 742-4166, www.fletcherslanding.com

Hunt, fish, relax on the shores of Fletcher Pond. 12 modern 1- and 2-bedroom cabins with kitchen and bath. Open year-round. Boat and motor rental. Bait & tackle shop. Heated ice shanties. Excellent bass, pike fishing.

Jack's Landing Resort

20836 Tennis Rd., Hillman, (989) 742-4370,
www.jackslanding.com

Jacks Landing – the original landing of the flood waters – offers a complete array of lodging, camping and services to make for an enjoyable getaway. They offer twenty 14-foot Lund Fishing Boats with 6-hp motors and three 18-ft pontoon boats with 25 hp motors. Rent a 4 x 8 propane-heated shanty.

Fishing Charter & Bait Other

- A-1 Woods & Water
- Alpena Bass Outfitters
- Buck's Bait & Tackle
- Chum Bucket Sportfishing Charters
- Two Hearted Sportfishing Charters 41

- Wipe Out Charters
- Trout Scout Charters
- Killfish Charters

■ Sailing School

Alpena Youth Sailing Club

102 S. 3rd Ave., Alpena, (989) 354-2175,
www.alpenayouthsailingclub.com

Sailing lessons for kids and adults - ages 8 and up. Enjoy learning to sail in the calm waters of Thunder Bay River, before venturing out to the big lake.

■ Scuba Diving & Snorkeling

- Alpena Adventures
- Great Lakes Divers
- Thunder Bay Scuba
- Blackdog Divers

■ Fitness, Indoor Rec & Spa

Alpena County Plaza Pool

3303 S. 3rd Ave., Alpena, (989) 354-8287,
www.alpenaplazapool.com

Swimming lessons from infant to adult, open swims, lap and exercise swims, senior fitness classes, water boot camps and any age (family fun) swims. Water walking, rehabilitation, water aerobics and Body Sculpt classes are also offered.

Northern Lights Arena

751 Woodward Ave., Alpena, (989) 358-0652, www.northernlightsarena.com

Alpena is home to a state-of-the-art indoor ice skating facility, Northern Lights Arena. Built in 2003, this arena offers two first-class official NHL-sized skate rinks for hockey tournaments, figure skating, and open skating to the public. These skate rinks are open year round. An indoor walking track is also available.

Fitness, Indoor Rec & Spa Other

- Alpena Events Complex (APlex)
- Bay Athletic Club
- Joshua Tree Yoga Studio
- Better Living Massage Center & Spa
- Donovan's Serenity & Wellness Spa
- Higher Vibrations – Maggie & Julie's Yoga Rm
- Massage Works Natural Health Center
- SkellaFit personal training studio
- Zen 24 Hr. Fitness

■ Golf

Alpena Golf Club

1135 E. Golf Course Rd., Alpena,
(989) 354-5052

River's Edge Golf Club

6373 Werth Rd., Alpena, Pro Shop:
(989) 354-4312, Clubhouse: (989) 354-5558

Thunder Bay Resort

27800 M-32, Hillman, 1-800-729-9375 or
(989) 742-4502

White Pine National Golf Resort

3450 N. Hubbard Lake Rd., Spruce, (989)
736-3279

■ Disc Golf

Eagle Country DG Course

700 Pinecrest, Alpena, (989) 354-7758

Lumberjack Meadows DG Course

3249 Woodward Ave, Alpena, (989) 354-7758

■ Marksmanship

Alpena Sportsman's Club

4260 M-32, Alpena, (989) 354-2582

Located just outside of the city, on a beautiful property tucked into the trees. 14 station sporting clays, trap, skeet, archery, 3-D archery, 100 to 600-yard rifle ranges, handgun and muzzleloader range. Open to the public year-round.

The hidden beaches of Rockport State Recreation Area & Dark Sky Preserve. Photo: Rick Houchin, @rickhouchinphoto.



■ Snowmobiling

The Alpena Snowdrifters Club is under contract with the Mi-DNR to sign, brush and groom 93 miles of snowmobile trail in the Alpena area. There are presently three staging areas for snowmobilers to park and ride from. In addition to the Devils Lake, a series of trails in a state

forest, there are three other trails in the system. For trail conditions, a map and more visit the Alpena Snowdrifters Club website at www.alpenasnowdrifters.org.

■ Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Rentals

Other Ski Rental

- Thunder Bay Resort, Hillman

Food & Drink Guide

Restaurants, Taverns, Wine & Brew, Coffee

● Asian

- Chee-Ping Chinese & Thai Restaurant
- Mandarin Garden
- Grand China Buffet
- Jimmy Chen's Hunan Chinese Restaurant

● American

Jack's Landing Restaurant

20836 Tennis Road, Hillman, (989) 742-4370,
www.jackslanding.com

This resort, located on Fletcher Pond features an on-site restaurant that serves up a full menu of home-cooked meals. Enjoy breakfast and prime rib dinners, paired with a nice selection of wines and beers. Open May through September. Piker's Cove Bar is located below the restaurant. Spend the evening trading fishing stories and the scoop on the latest water hot spots, while you play pool and shuffleboard.

Nowicki's Sausage Shoppe

1224 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 354-2219,
<https://nowickissausage.com>

Locally owned and operated for 5 generations, specialty meat and sausage shoppe. Indoor and outdoor seating available with quick service daily lunch specials & hand-dipped ice cream. Located in the 1904 historic German Hall.

The Parker House

24732 US 23 South, Presque Isle,
(989) 595-6484, www.parkerhouse.biz

This nostalgic Northern Michigan resort
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features breakfast and lunch comfort food, a hand-dipped ice cream shop. Enjoy views of Long Lake with family and friends while dining on homemade pancakes, pork chops, or pie.

Other American

- Big Boy Restaurant
- The Nest
- North End Restaurant
- The Bulldog
- Twin Acres 19th Hole Restaurant
- Smokey's
- Van Pamel's Hometown Diner
- Whitecaps Restaurant & Bar

● Bar & Grill

Sneakers Bar & Grill

1000 US-23, Alpena, (989) 356-2151

This restaurant and bar, located inside the Ramada Inn of Alpena, offers all of your favorite, good old-fashioned American foods, some of which even come with a twist to keep things fun.

JJ's Steak & Pizza House

411 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 356-1666,
www.jjspizza.com

Casual dining with a family-friendly atmosphere. Pizza, hoagies, steaks, burgers, pasta, ribs, a full bar, and more. Décor has an "up north" feel. Delivery available.

The Old Polish Corner

626 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 356-0034

Authentic Polish & American fare. Polish favorites & American classics casual dining & drinks in a pub style environment.

Other Bar & Grill

- The Clubhouse Bar & Grill at Thunder Bay Resort
- Hide-A-Way Tavern & Grill
- The Mountain Bar & Grill
- Sandbar & Grill
- Bolton Ridge Bar & Grill
- Woody's Grand Lake

● Brewery, Winery & Cider

Alcona Brew Haus

676 N U.S. 23, Harrisville, (989) 724-6338
<https://alconabrew.com>

Alcona Brew Haus serves upscale comfort food in a relaxing atmosphere. Offering a fine selection of artisan house-made beer, along with wine and spirits, pizza dough made from scratch, and house-smoked meats. The Alcona Brew Haus is allergen-friendly and does not prepare any foods containing tree nuts, peanuts, or shellfish.

Austin Brothers Beer Co.

821 W. Miller St., Alpena, (989) 340-2300,
www.austinbrosbeerco.com

Unashamedly passionate about the food and beer they create, using the best ingredients and suppliers, Austin Bros. beers are crafted and created in a sustainable, creative, and innovative environment. Food menu is on seasonal rotation to offer the freshest culinary dishes for the season.

Presque Isle Farm

205 W. Chisholm St., Alpena
www.presqueislefarm.com/

Presque Isle Farm cider is made of only apples. The cider is fermented until all the residual sugar is gone resulting in a mostly dry experience. These are not the sweet ciders you typically find on the grocery store shelves. These ciders are made in the traditional English and New England style

Musicians Chris Crown and Lee Kitzman fill the downtown air with music during Friday Night Downtown Street Performances.

Photo: Alpena Downtown Development Authority



and focus on cider-specific apples that can bring a complexity equal to wine. For those that are new to this type of cider, the potential of the apple may be surprising. For the seasoned cider drinker, they hope you enjoy this northeast Michigan take on this old tradition.

Thunder Bay Winery

109 N. Second Ave., Alpena, (989) 358-9463,
www.thunderbaywinery.com

Thunder Bay Winery's wine tasting room is located in the historic Center Building in downtown Alpena. Front windows overlook 2nd Avenue, making it an easy place to spend the afternoon with a few friends, have a date night, or you can even arrange to bring a group and enjoy sampling wine. The friendly, professional and knowledgeable staff makes the experience authentic as you learn the history of the wine- from the fruit being picked in the nearby local vineyard, to how the flavors are created and melded, right down to the genuine aging in oak barrels.

Other Brewery, Winery & Cider

- Hopside Brewery
- Knaebe's Mmmunchy Krunchy Apple Farm Twisted Roots Cider

● Breakfast & More

Connie's Café

11585 US 23 S., Ossineke, (989) 471-5415,
<http://conniescafeossineke.com/>

Connie's Café is a cherished, local family-owned restaurant specializing in baking fresh recipes that have been passed down through the family. A favorite of guests is the "Jumbo" scratch made cinnamon rolls as big as dinner plates. Breakfast, lunch, and Friday night fish fry.

Other Breakfast & More

- Nick's Southside Diner

● Coffee Café

Cabin Creek Coffee

201 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 356-5613,
www.cabincreekcoffeealpena.com

Cabin Creek Coffee serves soups, salads, sandwiches, and a variety of fresh coffee

drinks and smoothies. It provides a relaxed coffee shop atmosphere, where friendly baristas greet you with a smile. Catering services are also available for your next event.

Other Coffee

- Biggby Coffee
- North Country Candy & Gifts
- Starbucks (coming 2022)

● Upscale Cuisine & Cocktails

The Fresh Palate Gourmet

109 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 358-1400,
www.freshpalategourmet.com

Owned and operated by Chef Eric Peterson, who trained at the Western Culinary Institute in Portland, OR and the 5 Star Jardinière in San Francisco, the Fresh Palate is a destination for gourmet style farm-to-table dining. Located in the Center Building in the heart of Downtown Alpena, The Fresh Palate brings west coast fusion to life with locally-grown farm fresh ingredients. Enjoy hearty favorites as well as vegan and gluten-free options. A full service bar rounds out any meal with craft cocktails, Michigan micro-brews, or the perfect wine pairing. The Fresh Palate also hosts many events such as the Sunrise Suds Tap Takeover brew festival. Check their website for current dates.

Churchill Pointe Inn

5700 Bennett Road, Hubbard Lake,
(989) 727-2020, www.churchillpointeinn.com

Overlooking beautiful Hubbard Lake, Churchill Pointe Inn has been serving high quality and fresh cuisine and offering comfortable lodging in the best traditions of Northern Michigan hospitality since 1927. Although dress is casual, the spacious dining room covered in white linen tablecloths presents gracious views of the lake from every



Enjoy the talent of local chefs across the Alpena Area. Pictured: The Fresh Palate Gourmet & Nucleus Lounge, photo courtesy Alpena Downtown Development Authority.

table. Extensive menu has something for everyone to enjoy from fresh lake fish, grilled to order steaks, sautéed chicken classics to pastas, gluten-free options, and vegetarian dishes, there is something for all tastes. Cocktail bar offers wine, favorite drinks, or choose one of Churchill Pointe's signature drinks.

Red Brick Tap & Barrel

109 River St., Alpena, (989) 340-2175
www.redbricktap.com

Red Brick Tap & Barrel is a recently renovated restaurant in the heart of downtown Alpena. In a building that is over 100 years old, owners have transformed the space into an urban whiskey bar with an ever-changing food and cocktail menu. Their mission is to connect Alpena to the big city through inspired menus and excellent service.

Other Upscale Cuisine & Cocktails

- The Court Yard Ristorante
- Hubbard Lake Roadhouse, White Pine National Golf
- Rosa's Lookout Inn
- Woody's Grand Lake

● Deli/Sandwiches

- Take 5 Deli
- Jimmy John's Gourmet Subs
- Seymour's Long Lake
- Subway (2 locations)
- Sand Bay Trading Co. Grand Lake

● Food Truck (Seasonal)

- Sherwood Pita Wagon
- Downtown Scoops Ice Cream trailer

● Grocery & Market

Birch Hill Grocery

8121 E. Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle, MI 49777
www.birchhillgrocery.com

Birch Hill Grocery is a staple of the

Grand Lake experience. After more than seventy years of business, Birch Hill Grocery continues to provide goods, extraordinary service, and the neighborly atmosphere that lies at the heart of our deeply special community of Grand Lake. Please see website for hours of operation.

Other Grocery & Market

- Alpena Farmer's Market
- Cracker Barrel Party Store
- Jimmy Garant's Party Store
- Kipfmiller's Produce & Meats (seasonal)
- Long Lake Supermarket
- Marine Meat Market
- Meijer
- Norway Party Store
- Opechee's
- Perch's IGA
- Seymour's
- Walmart Super Center

● Ice Cream/Sweets

- Dairy Queen
- Downtown Scoops
- Galley Sweet Shop
- North Country Candy & Gifts

● Mexican

Pompeyos Mexican Grill

1120 S. State Ave., Alpena, MI 49707

Authentic Mexican food served with a beautiful view of the Lake Huron coastline. Dine inside or outside during the warm months for a pure, northern Michigan experience. Restaurant is located adjacent to Starlite Beach and Rotary Splash Park.

Other Mexican

- Mangos Mexican Cuisine & Tequila Bar

● Pizza

J.J.'s Steak & Pizza House

411 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 356-1666,
www.jjspizza.com

Casual dining with a family-friendly atmosphere. The menu has something for everyone including world famous pizza in an "up north" setting. Delivery available.

Other Pizza

- Birch Hill Grocery Grand Lake
- Cracker Barrel Pizza & Deli
- Domino's
- Freier's Pizzeria
- Hungry Howies
- Little Caesars Pizza
- Mancino's Pizza & Grinders
- Pizza Hut

● Pubs & Taverns

The Nucleus Lounge

109 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 358-1400,
freshpalategourmet.com/nucleus-lounge

Sit back and relax with good food, good drinks, and a great vibe. The Nucleus Lounge is located inside the Center Building in the heart of Downtown Alpena. Enjoy a favorite cocktail, try a signature creation, micro-brew or wine, and order off the Fresh Palate menu which provides

hearty favorites as well as vegan and gluten-free options. Catch the game on the big screens, or listen to live music performed by local and well-known bands.

Bogarts Tavern

2085 Werth Rd., Alpena, (989) 356-9921

Local tavern with pool tables, darts, Keno, TVs for viewing your favorite sporting event, karaoke every Saturday, and the famous Bogie Burger.

Other Pubs & Bars

- Black Sheep Pub
- Hide-a-way Bar
- Latitudes Tavern
- Pappy's Pub
- Player's Pub & Grub
- Stone Bar & Grill

● Quick & Familiar

- Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
- Arby's of Alpena
- Culver's of Alpena
- Jimmy John's
- John Boy's
- McDonald's (3 locations)
- Kentucky Fried Chicken
- North Coney Island
- Smigelski Kielbasa
- Subway (2 locations)
- Taco Bell
- Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers



Downtown Alpena is a great destination for a relaxing afternoon or evening with friends. Photo: Alpena Downtown Development Authority.

Retail & Boutique Shopping

Gifts, Souvenirs, Housewares, Antiques, & More

■ The Bluebird Boutique

112 Water St., Alpena, (989) 340-1001,
thebluebirdboutiquealpena.com

The Bluebird Boutique is a unique women's clothing store located in Downtown Alpena. At The Bluebird Boutique, you will find a variety of trendy, affordable clothing styles ranging in sizes small to 3X. Like and follow the Bluebird Boutique on Facebook for updated inventory, events, and more @TheBluebirdBoutiqueAlpena.

■ Cedar & Threads

133 E. Chisholm St., Alpena, (989) 340-1129
www.cedarandthreads.net

Your Sasquatch attire headquarters. A family-run business located in beautiful downtown Alpena, within walking distance of Thunder Bay River and Lake Huron. Cedar & Threads strives to create a fulfilling shopping experience for customers, while providing unique gifts, souvenirs, and comfortable apparel for everyone.

■ Harborside Cycle & Sport

119 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 354-4999,
www.harborsidecycle.com

Alpena's only full-service bike and outdoor adventure gear outfitter. A full range of road, mountain, cross, fat, and electric bikes are available for purchase. Get advice on the best gear for you as well as recommended trails and locations from knowledgeable staff. Canoes, stand-up paddleboards, and kayaks are also available for purchase.

Check website, Facebook page, or call for updated inventory & store hours.

■ Regalo Luxury Gifts

107 W. Chisholm St., Alpena, (989) 340-0978,
www.facebook.com/regalo-luxury-gifts-434638120449155

Conveniently located in downtown Alpena, Regalo Luxury Gifts offers luxury gift items for men, women, and children. There is something for everyone. Many products are eco-friendly, and are made in small batches throughout the USA.

■ The Local Basketcase

109 W Chisholm St, Alpena, (989) 354-0425,
the-local-basket-case-llc.myshopify.com

The Local Basketcase is a family-owned business originating in downtown Alpena. Offering unique, handmade gifts and clothing, as well as Michigan-made products to show off your Mitten pride.

■ Re-tails Boutique at Huron Humane Society

3510 Woodward, Alpena, (989) 356-4794,
www.huronhumanesocietyinc.org/retailsboutique

A quirky, upscale boutique, Re-Tails specializes in upcycled furniture, interesting home decor, Grounds & Hounds Coffee Company products, small-batch candles, fine toiletries, and unique accessories. Talented local artists provide much of Re-Tails merchandise, so you can purchase a quintessentially Northern Michigan gift for yourself or a loved

one while supporting the Huron Humane Society, which runs Re-Tails Boutique as a year-round fundraiser for the animals it serves. The Boutique is located at Huron Humane Society of Alpena.

The Rabbit Hole

312 W. Chisholm Street, Alpena, (989) 884-4758,
www.facebook.com/NEMLrabbithole

Curious about the wonders that you may find in this little shop? It'll be a one-of-a-kind experience that we welcome you to enter, where everyone is a little mad (in the best way possible)! This unique boutique features original artwork and painted furniture by owner Janet Wallace, her daughter Chelsea's photography, essential oils, jewelry, textile items, items for children, and a variety of other curiosities and appealing gift items.

Other Retail & Boutique Shopping

- Big Lots
- Bolenz Jewelry
- Chippewa Valley Leatherworks
- Classic Designs by Doreen Thomas
- Colburn Outfitters
- Goodwill
- Glik's
- Habitat ReStore
- Holy Smokes Tobacco & Cigar Shop
- JoAnn Fabrics & Crafts
- Joel's Guitar Shop
- Johnny's Shoe Service
- Maurice's
- Myers Fashions
- Noise & Toys
- Olivet Book & Gift
- Parallel 45 Books & Gifts
- Prattscape
- Rusty Petunias Marketplace
- Salvation Army Thrift Store
- Soaps & Such
- St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store
- Tractor Supply
- Traveling Ladders
- Treehuggers
- The Style Warehouse
- The Southend Emporium
- Wild Wild West Tobacco
- Yarns to Go



Shopping and dining in Alpena is a fun-filled relaxed adventure. From outdoor dining and summer sidewalk sales, to holiday lights and street performers, Alpena is a place to relax, rejuvenate and restore. Photo courtesy Alpena Downtown Development Authority.

Tours, Venues, & Catering

Tours, Car Rental, Venues, Catering, Services

Tours

Tours & Excursion Assistance

420 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 340-2288,
www.VisitAlpena.com

The Alpena Area Visitors Bureau can create specialized adventures for small and large groups. With advance request, a variety of experiences can be recommended to suit your interests. Download Adventure Guides from VisitAlpena.com, or stop by the Alpena Area Visitor Welcome Center at 420 N. 2nd Ave., and pick up printed copies of many self-guided adventures.

Alpena Shipwreck Tours, Glass-Bottom Boat

500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena, (888) 469-4696,
www.AlpenaShipwreckTours.com

Explore the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary on the 65-ft glass-bottomed boat *Lady Michigan*! Two large viewing wells on the main deck give passengers a front row view of historical shipwrecks on the bottom of Lake Huron. A delight for all ages, the 2 1/2-hr cruise may include incredible views of historic lighthouses and picturesque Thunder Bay Island. Daily tours May-October. Tickets can be purchased at the Sanctuary Gift Store at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, located at 500 W. Fletcher St. in Alpena, or online. The *Lady Michigan* docks just behind the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center on the Thunder Bay River.

Other Tours

- Alpena Adventures

Transportation & Car Rental

South Bay Car Rental

3146 US-23 S., Alpena, (989) 356-9641,
www.plowmanscollision.net

Need a ride for your upcoming Alpena experience? South Bay Car Rental, located inside Plowman's Collision of Alpena, offers everything from mid-size vehicles to minivans to suit your convenience. Please call ahead for availability and rates.

Alpena County Regional Airport

1617 Airport Rd., Alpena, (800) 221-1212,
(989) 354-2907, www.alpenairport.com

Alpena County Regional Airport in partnership with SkyWest Airlines, operating as a Delta connection, offers daily flights to Detroit with unlimited destinations. For information on airport services, industrial park or land development, see website or call (989) 354-2907. Car rental business on-site.

Public Transportation

- Dial-A-Ride 989-354-4596

Transportation, Other

- Hudson Motor Sales Car Rental
- Indian Trails Bus (Walmart Parking Lot)
- Alpena Cab Company
- American Cab
- City Cab
- Thunder Bay Taxi

Venues & Catering

City of Alpena Parks

208 N. 1st Ave., Alpena, (989) 354-1700,
www.alpena.mi.us/residents/city_parks/index.php

Facilities at city parks and beaches can be reserved for special events. Contact the City of Alpena for details.

Art in the Loft

109 N. 2nd Ave. Suite 300, Alpena,
(989) 356-4877, www.artintheloft.org

Art in the Loft fine arts center and gallery is located on the third floor of the historic Center Building in downtown Alpena. The gallery has over 7,000 square feet of open loft space with original wood floors, brick walls, and a stunning bird's eye view of Lake Huron's Thunder Bay through large windows. Between the authentic old industrial style, and the great art pieces adorning the walls, it doesn't take much effort to turn this loft into a sophisticated wedding paradise or event venue. A modern kitchen area is also available for catering use.

Churchill Pointe Inn

5700 Bennett Rd., Hubbard Lake,
(989) 727-2020, www.churchillpointeinn.com

Churchill Pointe Inn is an historic 1920's era country inn centered on a picturesque peninsula, overlooking beautiful Hubbard Lake. Use the sparkling lake as your backdrop and Churchill Pointe Inn as your stage. Hold a ceremony either at the arbor, or along the lakeshore. An in-house chef will help you design a personalized menu for your reception that can be held on a large outdoor deck, on the lush lawn, or in the Inn's dining room. There are also eight rooms available for convenient overnight lodging.

Great Lakes

Maritime Heritage Center

500 W. Fletcher St., Alpena, (989) 356-8805,
<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/maritime/glmhc.html>

Host your event on the Heritage Center's living rooftop for a stunning view of the Thunder Bay River and Rotary Island, or take advantage of high-tech meeting spaces. If you would rather be under shelter, arrange a cocktail party style reception inside the maritime museum, or place a tent behind the center, along the river. The life-sized recreation of an historic Great Lakes schooner inside the center makes for one-of-a-kind photo opportunities. You can utilize the indoor theater for special slideshows and presentations. Take advantage of the *Lady Michigan* glass-bottom boat as an additional venue space to give guests something truly unique to remember.

Hemlock Hills on Mill Pond

13796 Leer Rd., Posen, (989) 341-4777,
www.hemlockhillsonmillpond.com

With the Historic Elowsky Grist Mill on the Thunder Bay River as the backdrop, picture opportunities are endless. The venue barn, originally built in the early 1900's was refurbished in 2016. Three-night rental includes the Mill House that sleeps up to 10 people, the Bunkhouse that can sleep up to 34 people, along with a Pavilion that has bathrooms, warming kitchen, bar and meeting area. Five camper sites with electric hook-ups are also available. You can rent Hemlock Hill's three other vacation homes as well and make it a perfect destination wedding for your party and guests.

Nowicki's Historic Arbeiter Hall

1224 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 354-2219
<https://nowickissausage.com>

A state of Michigan registered historic site, Arbeiter Hall (built in 1904) offers a unique venue for weddings, reunions, and more. Two banquet areas downstairs comfortably seat up to 50 people. The Historic Grand Ballroom upstairs accommodates groups up to 150 people. Conveniently located close to downtown Alpena, and across from McRea Park.

Nowicki's Sausage Shoppe

1224 N. 2nd Ave., Alpena, (989) 354-2219
<https://nowickissausage.com>

Nowicki's, locally owned and operated for 5 generations, is a specialty meat and sausage shoppe. Catering is available for events, reunions, weddings, graduation parties, etc. A staffed, full-service trailer is also available for large events.

Presque Isle Lodge Bed & Breakfast

8211 E. Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle, (989)
595-6970 (summer), 231-929-4684 (winter),
www.presqueislelodge.com

Hand-hewn from pine logs prior to the advent of electricity, the more than 10,000 sq. ft. Presque Isle Lodge, with its large stone fireplace, is a perfect setting for an elegant event. Your hosts, the Spencers, can help you arrange all aspects of your special day, from flowers to food to personal touches for your guests. Whether you hold your ceremony in front of the fireplace surrounded by family and friends, outdoors on the hill near Grand Lake, or in a wooded setting with serene Lotus Pond as a background, the Presque Isle Lodge will provide an intimate, unforgettable setting for your wedding celebrations.

The Ramada Inn

1000 US-23-N, Alpena, (989) 356-2151,
www.ramadaalpena.com

Three reception/meeting spaces are available to accommodate banquet, wedding, or workshop needs. The Huron Room seats 48, Superior Room seats 60, the Michigan Room seats 90; and all three combine to create the Great Lakes Room to seat 200 people. Amenities include Sneakers Bar and/or portable bar inside your banquet room, PA system, dance floor, table linen & skirting, and catering options. Located inside Alpena's only full-service hotel.

JJ's Catering & Rental

119 Fletcher St., Alpena, (989) 356-5177
www.jjscateringandrental.com

Full-service catering for any event – large or small. JJ's offers a wide range of menu selections and service from plated meals and buffets to drop-off service. Also offering a full line of rental items including tents, tables, chairs, linens, and more.

Other Venues

- Alpena Events Complex (Aplex)
- Alpena County Fairgrounds
- Alpena County Library
- Antique Tractor & Steam Engine Club
- Fireside Inn
- The Depot on Fletcher Street

► Emergency Services

Emergency (County Wide)	911
Fire	911
ER - Hospital	(989)356-7252
Alpena City Public Safety Facility	
Fire/Amb. - Business	(989) 354-1850
Police - Business	(989) 354-1800
Alpena County Sheriff	(989) 354-9830
Michigan State Police	(989) 354-4101
U.S. Coast Guard Office	(989) 356-1656
MI- DNR - Reg. Cust. Svs	(989) 732-3541

Destination Alpena

THINK OUTSIDE — OF THE — MEETING ROOM

- Unique indoor & outdoor venues
- Small workshop & event space
- Board & group retreats
- Centrally located to 7 lighthouses, 3 Dark Sky Preserves, nearly 200 shipwrecks, and 100 miles of groomed trails for team-building & big picture brainstorming

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Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
VisitAlpena.com/resources | 989-340-2288 | marybeth@visitalpena.com



**Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Tourism Offices &
Sanctuary of the Great Lakes Visitor Welcome Center**

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