SEO Template for new content

Target keywords: things to do in ann arbor

Page title

• Optimal title length: **55 characters**

• Add at least one of your target keywords to your <title> tag, don't use each target keyword more than 1 time: **things to do in ann arbor**

Meta description

• Optimal meta length: **160 characters**

H1

• Add all your target keywords at least one time: **things to do in ann arbor**

Text

• Try to acquire backlinks from the following domains: [ansaroo.com](http://ansaroo.com), [au-e.com](http://au-e.com), [duck.news](http://duck.news), [umich.edu](http://umich.edu), [flywheelsites.com](http://flywheelsites.com), [asriportal.com](http://asriportal.com), [femdomgalleries.top](http://femdomgalleries.top), [alhussain-sch.com](http://alhussain-sch.com), [petworld-online.com](http://petworld-online.com), [technopagan.org](http://technopagan.org), [couponscodetoday.com](http://couponscodetoday.com), [bigcouponcode.com](http://bigcouponcode.com), [azztimes.com](http://azztimes.com), [seachengineeringjobs.com](http://seachengineeringjobs.com), [bestappsfinder.com](http://bestappsfinder.com), [education-university.com](http://education-university.com), [bingj.com](http://bingj.com), [dmarealestate.com](http://dmarealestate.com), [bigtopcoupons.com](http://bigtopcoupons.com), [ceqoya.com](http://ceqoya.com)

• Enrich your text with the following semantically related words: **botanical gardens and nichols, ann arbor michigan, huron river, kelsey museum of archaeology, gardens and nichols arboretum, hill auditorium, united states, ann arbor farmers market, museum of natural history, arbor hands on museum, domino s farms petting farm, michigan museum of art, ann arbor hands, football stadium, nature area, stadium in the university of michigan campus, university of michigan museum, downtown ann arbor, michigan theater, operated by the university of michigan campus**

• Focus on creating more informative content. Recommended text length: **2129.0**

• Make sure that your text is easy to read with the Flesch-Kincaid readability test. The readability score should be: **53.896598874831525**

• Add at least one of your target keywords: **things to do in ann arbor**

When your content has been published, [launch a SEO Ideas](https://www.semrush.com/features/seo-ideas/?utm-source=sct&utm-medium=template) campaign to check if your content complies with all on-page SEO factors and discover what else can be done to give your content a SEO boost.

Analyzed top-10-ranking rivals for your target keywords

things to do in ann arbor

1. <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g29556-Activities-Ann_Arbor_Michigan.html>

2. <https://www.busytourist.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-mi/>

3. <https://www.annarbor.org/things-to-do/>

4. <https://www.michigan.org/article/itinerary-trip-idea/things-do-ann-arbor-ultimate-pure-michigan-guide>

5. <https://vacationidea.com/destinations/best-things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-mi.html>

6. <https://www.awesomemitten.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-michigan/>

7. <https://travel2next.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-michigan/>

8. <https://travel.usnews.com/Ann_Arbor_MI/Things_To_Do/>

9. <https://mymichiganbeach.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor/>

10. <https://www.planetware.com/michigan/top-rated-things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-us-mi-94.htm>

See how competitors write about targeted keywords:

**things to do in ann arbor**

**1.** <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g29556-Activities-Ann_Arbor_Michigan.html>

Beautiful gardens to stroll, trails to walk, and art to enjoy!
Met a friend to spend some time together catching up. It was only my second visit, and many years since my first visit. Under the aegis of the University of Michigan, admission is free, so it begs for more frequent visits to enjoy the conservatory and the gardens at various times of the year. The Conservatory comprises a Tropical House, a Temperate House, and a Desert House. We saw some very unusual cacti and other plants, including "living stone" plants!! We strolled outdoors through the Perennial Garden, the Children's Garden, and more, including some wooded trails. Thoroughly enjoyed the art installed throughout the gardens. If you like nature art, check out the exhibit inside the Visitor Center and the mosaic art outside the west entrance. Hope to return soon!
Read more
Review of: Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Written July 13, 2022
This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.
Historic theatre a terrific venue for movies, lectures, concerts!!
We drove in from an hour away to attend one of their Classic Movie series offerings... The Godfather! Thank you for showing one of the finest movies of all time on the big screen. Love this setting! The lobby is stunning with its staircase to the balcony level, mirrors, and beautiful ceiling. The theatre itself isn't too shabby either! Anytime you can see a movie in a historic theatre, you should take advantage. Since we were in Ann Arbor during COVID, masks were required to enter. Thank you for keeping us safe! We've seen movies, lectures, and concerts in this venue. It is always a treat!!
Read more
Review of: Michigan Theater
Written August 19, 2022
This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.
A Great Outside the Box place to visit
Visited for the first time with my wife and adult children. We had an absolute great time. The employees were very informative and passionate about the animals in their charge. They really new their animals and were very happy to share their knowledge.
It’s a smaller facility so it doesn’t take all day to see it which is nice. 90 minutes is more than enough time.
Next time we are going to try a private tour . If you’re in Ann Arbor and are looking for something a little different I’d highly recommend stopping by the Creature Conservancy.
Read more
Review of: The Creature Conservancy
Written June 13, 2021
This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.

**2.** <https://www.busytourist.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-mi/>

October 17, 2022
681 shares
Ann Arbor was once a little strip of land in Michigan that was named after the wives of its co-founders.
Both were called Ann, so the founders shrugged, and Ann Arbor was born.
Today, Ann Arbor is a bustling city that’s home to everything from tech companies to world-famous research universities.
It still has a certain amount of down-home charm, especially in its historic districts, but it’s also grown into a thriving metropolis filled with shops, restaurants, parks, museums, performance venues and more.
You can dance in nightclubs.
You can sip fine wines in vineyards.
You can wander through arboretums, feed animals in petting zoos, scream yourself hoarse at football games and take long scenic drives along the river.
It’s all possible in Ann Arbor.
Maybe you’re planning a distant vacation.
Maybe you’re headed there tomorrow.
Whatever your schedule looks like, here are just a few amazing things to do in Ann Arbor, Michigan!
Things To Do In Ann Arbor
1. Ann Arbor Summer Festival
VasenkaPhotography / flickr
Held every June – July, the Ann Arbor Summer Festival is one of the city’s biggest celebrations.
It offers a dizzying amount of art, music, food, dance, theater and culture, and it brings together thousands of people from all over Michigan and beyond.
Musicians put on live concerts.
Artists display portraits and paintings.
Marching bands host parades; circus performers show off their tricks; comedians and poets captivate audiences for hours at a time.
There’s also food, of course, as befitting one of the corn dog capitals of the world.
You’ll find plenty of things to munch on as you navigate the booths, crowds and stages.
Another great thing about the festival is that many activities are available at no charge, so if you’re looking for free things to do in Ann Arbor, this event can keep you busy without stretching your budget.
Visit the city in the summertime to enjoy the Ann Arbor Summer Festival.
Once you’ve experienced something like this, you’ll want to come back year after year for more!
Address: 767 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, United States
2. Michigan Stadium
Wichai Cheva Photography / Shutterstock
Nicknamed the “Big House,” Michigan Stadium is the largest stadium in the United States and the second largest in the world.
It can seat a whopping 115,000 people!
It’s a must see while you’re in Ann Arbor, and luckily, there are plenty of events on the green to enjoy.
The biggest draw is football, of course, with fans packing the stadium every season to see the Michigan Wolverines beat the snot out of lesser teams.
Other sporting events have centered around soccer, lacrosse and ice hockey.
If you aren’t interested in athletics, you might also like the off-season events hosted in the space.
They’ve included everything from yoga classes to weekend movie nights.
Tours can also be arranged for those who want to see the box seats and locker rooms up close.
All in all, if you’re wondering what to do in Ann Arbor, you should definitely make time for Michigan Stadium.
How often will you get the chance to do the downward dog in America’s biggest sports venue?
Address: 1201 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
3. Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
Learning comes alive at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum .
Based out of an old, vintage-style red brick firehouse, it’s a place where kids can run, jump, climb, roll and wiggle out their energy to their heart’s content.
Best of all, it’ll be an educational kind of movement!
Splashing pools teach about fluid dynamics.
Simulated driving courses sneak in lessons about motion, force and locomotion.
Nature walks are for biology; laser instruments are for light and energy; bubble capsules are for physics.
Even the 1930s market can provide baby’s first lesson in economics.
If you’re looking for Ann Arbor attractions that all ages can enjoy, schedule a visit to the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.
Kids will love it, of course, but even adults can discover their inner child as they engage with various exhibits!
Address: 220 E Ann St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
4. Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum
Rachel Wickremasinghe / Shutterstock
Though they’re separate entities, the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and the Nichols Arboretum are both owned and operated by the University of Michigan near their main campus, so they’re often taken together as a single tourist attraction.
Points of interest at the gardens include tree groves, bonsai collections, hedge labyrinths, windflower gardens and an elaborate, 10,000-foot conservatory.
There’s also a wide range of biodiversity since different greenhouses are modeled after different climates and landscapes; you can see everything from dry, arid deserts to lush green fields and prairies.
Another great thing about the gardens is that they don’t charge admission.
You’ll need to pay for parking, but otherwise, they’re both free things to do in Ann Arbor.
Do you like taking long walks through nature?
Do you enjoy the sound of birdsong over babbling brooks and rustling trees?
You don’t have to trek into the wilderness to unplug from modern life for awhile.
Just go to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and the Nichols Arboretum.
Address: 1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, United States
5. Krazy Jim’s Blimpy Burger
Susan Montgomery / Shutterstock
Everyone in Ann Arbor has heard of Krazy Jim’s .
Like its name suggests, it’s different than your usual hamburger joint, and the end results can be pretty wild!
For starters, you’ll build your own burger rather than ordering off a menu.
You’ll get to choose whatever combination of patties, buns, veggies and condiments that your heart desires.
You can also create your own fries with a variety of nacho-style toppings.
Additionally, you’ll watch your food being prepared right in front of you.
As you move through the cafeteria-style line from the grill to the deep fryer, you’ll always know exactly what your chefs are doing, in no small part because you’ll be giving them assembly directions the entire time.
When your food is done, you’ll have the burgers and fries of your dreams.
Celebrate it.
You just experienced Krazy Jim’s Blimpy Burger, one of the most fun places to visit in Ann Arbor!
Address: 304 S Ashley St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
Visiting other parts of Michigan? Why not check out some of the things to do in Detroit ?
6. Hudson Mills Metropark
ellenm1 / flickr
Located a few miles north of Ann Arbor in Dexter, Michigan, the Hudson Mills Metropark is a stunning landscape filled with both natural wonder and man-made fun.
The terrain covers more than 1,500 acres and includes woods, wetlands and prairies filled with all kinds of flora and fauna.
Outdoor activities range from canoeing and kayaking on the water to hiking and biking along nature trails that twist through the trees.
There’s skiing in the wintertime and fly fishing in the summertime.
You can also let the kids loose on a number of playgrounds!
For adults, recreation might come in the form of an 18-hole golf course or disc golf course.
There are also many athletic fields as well as courts for tennis, shuffle ball and more.
If you’re thinking about what to do in the sunshine during your trip to Ann Arbor, swing by the Hudson Mills Metropark.
It’s only a short distance away, but it’s so different from the lights and sounds of the city that you’ll feel like you’re enjoying another, separate vacation while you’re there.
Address: 8801 N Territorial Rd, Dexter, MI 48130, United States
7. Kerrytown
Located just a few blocks from downtown Ann Arbor, Kerrytown is a lively historic district full of both old-school charm and brand-new commerce.
Farmer’s markets are held just about every weekend.
Festivals bring together artisans, musicians, crafters and more.
Mom-and-pop shops are prevalent, and there are also a number of cafes with outdoor patios and music streaming through the windows.
Even the roads are cute: They’re made with distinctive red bricks that give the entire area a certain vintage-style charm.
If you’re looking for cool places to go in Ann Arbor, all of the locals will tell you to check out Kerrytown.
It has such history and vibrancy as a neighborhood that it’s practically a town in its own right.
Those heading to Ann Arbor this weekend should definitely grab a bag of caramel corn from a farmer’s market and go sightseeing!
Address: Ashley, Depot, Division, and Ann Streets, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
8. Ann Arbor Ice Cube
Ann Arbor Ice Cube
As a snowy destination, Michigan has its fair share of wintertime tourist attractions, but their level of fun can be dependent on the weather.
If you’re looking for a guaranteed good time, try the Ann Arbor Ice Cube instead.
The Ann Arbor Ice Cube is an indoor “ice facility” where you can enjoy the rink all year round.
Whether you’re interested in speed skating, figure skating or playing hockey or broomball, this is the place to experience them, rain or shine!
You can also schedule tours, field trips and birthday parties if you’re traveling with a group or living near Ann Arbor and looking for nice places to visit.
Concessions are available, and the rink is always well-maintained for both public and private events.
Lace up your skates at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube if you want to do some axels and lutzes without having to worry about an inconveniently sunny day melting your rink!
Address: 2121 Oak Valley Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, United States
9. University of Michigan Museum of Art
Susan Montgomery / Shutterstock
The University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) is one of the major points of interest in Ann Arbor.
It represents more than 150 years of art curation and collection, and its works include world-famous paintings from Monet, Picasso and more.
Other things to see include historical artifacts, pottery and portrait galleries, modern photography halls and an outdoor “sculpture walk.”
Visitors can enjoy beautiful art installations made from a variety of mediums with designs and themes that range from the abstract to the hyper-realistic.
Special events at the museum include everything from film screenings to artmaking classes, so if you have free time this weekend, make sure to check their schedule and see what’s coming up next.
All things considered, the University of Michigan Museum of Art is worth a visit for art lovers, culture enthusiasts and anyone else who wants to explore Ann Arbor’s creative heart and soul.
Don’t ignore this amazing destination while you’re in the city!
Address: 525 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, United States
10. HopCat
HopCat
HopCat is one of the best places to grab a beer in Ann Arbor.
Not only does it offer more than 100 different brews, but it’s also famous for its “pub grub,” or its collection of wings, fries, burgers, buffalo rolls and other mouthwatering menu items.
You’ll start by entering the hardwood bar with its warm leather seats and comfortably dim lighting.
Then, after perusing your choices for food and drink, you can choose from local, regional and even international brands from outside of Michigan.
Whether you want dark, heavy tankards paired with greasy cheese curds or lite, golden mugs to go along with soups and salads, you can enjoy various flavor combinations here.
If you visit on the weekend, you can enjoy live music shows and other special events.
If you visit during their “gourmet nights,” you can enjoy four-course, five-beer specials designed to delight your palette in every way.
A trip to HopCat is one of the top things to do in Ann Arbor, especially if you like beer flavors from around the world.
You can travel the globe without even leaving Michigan when you order a drink at Hopcat’s!
Address: 311 Maynard St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
Exploring other areas of Michigan? Why not check out what to do in Grand Rapids as well as some of the fun things to do in Kalamazoo ?
11. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
Richard Westlund / Shutterstock
You don’t have to be Indiana Jones to appreciate the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology .
It’s one of those Ann Arbor attractions that can be enjoyed by people from all walks of life due to its utter uniqueness!
For starters, it’s housed in a large, asymmetrical mansion made from jagged fieldstone and outfitted with old-school design elements befitting its Romanesque architecture style.
Inside, it’s packed with more than 100,000 artifacts from civilizations around the world; visitors can walk among Greek coins, Iraqi pottery, Byzantine textiles, Roman brick stamps and Egyptian mummy masks.
The best thing about the museum, however, is its namesake: archeology.
It has very rare collections of things like excavation records and turn-of-the-century photos, and even if you’re not an archaeology student, it’s hard not to be impressed by them.
Check out the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology if you’re looking for fun and interesting places to visit in Ann Arbor.
Take a break from the movie theaters and shopping malls and get a little culture instead!
Address: 434 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, United States
12. Michigan Theater
Hanson-L / Shutterstock
As one of the oldest “movie palaces” in the United States, Michigan Theater has a larger-than-life reputation, one that’s only exceeded by its rich and colorful history as an Ann Arbor landmark.
Originally built in the 1920s, Michigan Theater was the place to see and be seen by the socialites of the era.
It was also considered one of the top tourist attractions in the state, drawing all kinds of visitors who wanted to see its films, plays, concerts and vaudeville acts.
It was a grand old building furnished with things like pipe organs and orchestra pits.
Over the years, however, attendance started to decline, and the theater was almost demolished in the 1950s.
It took the concentrated efforts of the community to raise enough money to keep it going.
Today, Michigan Theater is small but thriving.
You can still book tickets for various movies and shows, and you can take satisfaction in knowing that you’re supporting a local business with strong roots in the neighborhood.
Seeing a film at the Michigan Theater is definitely one of the best things to do in Ann Arbor.
Address: 603 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
13. Legoland Discovery Center
Ilze\_Lucero / Shutterstock
A trip to Legoland is one of the most memorable experiences that you can offer your children.
It’s the Michigan equivalent of a trip to Disneyland or Orlando Studios.
They’ll be talking about it for years to come, and you’ll be the coolest mom or dad ever!
What all can you do at Legoland?
It depends on your interests.
Little ones will love the kid-sized Mini-Land that allows them to be giants among colorful brick buildings; older children might appreciate the 4D theater or the Lego race car tracks where you can build and race your own creations.
Even adults can get in on the fun with rides, games and exhibits for the whole family!
One thing to note about Legoland is that you’ll need to buy tickets in advance for all-day admission, so don’t delay the booking aspect.
A little planning today can save you a lot of headache tomorrow!
If you’re heading to Ann Arbor this weekend and hoping to explore the Legoland playgrounds, make sure to call in advance.
Address: 4240 Baldwin Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326, United States
14. Lillie Park
mivod / Shutterstock
With its hills, cliffs, forests and beaches, Michigan is one of the most beautiful places in the US , and Lillie Park is a great place to see the sights.
Not only is the park filled with things like picturesque ponds and woodlands teeming with flowers, but there are also a number of nature trails to help you explore them.
For example, you can walk along wooden bridges over the water, or you can kick up wood chips or push a stroller along the limestone blocks of various park trails.
When you get tired, you can take a rest among the many benches and gazebos that offer waterside views or country-style outlooks of grassy green fields.
Another perk of the park is that it’s centrally located in Ann Arbor, so when you’re done finding yourself in nature, you can return to civilization with no problem.
Many things to do in Michigan involve the outdoors.
To see it at its best, you’ll want to visit a place like Lillie Park.
Address: 4365 Platt Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, United States
15. Hill Auditorium
It’s hosted classical orchestras and philharmonics.
It’s welcomed pop singers like Elton John and rock bands like The Grateful Dead.
It’s the Hill Auditorium , and it’s one of the premiere entertainment venues of Ann Arbor.
Built in 1913, the Hill Auditorium combines classic architecture with modern acoustics.
It was originally the result of an experiment: Would it be possible to build a concert hall where the sounds of the stage could be heard equally from every seat?
Letters flew back and forth between builders, and the end result was a 4,000-seat, megaphone-shaped venue raised on the University of Michigan campus.
Today, Hill Auditorium regularly hosts concerts, symphonies, glee clubs and more.
There’s always something happening, so if you’re looking for exciting stuff to do, go and catch a show on campus!
Address: 825 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, United States
Have more time? Why not check out some of the things to do in Traverse City ?
16. Border-to-Border Trail
Are you on a budget?
You don’t have to spend big bucks to have fun in Ann Arbor.
There are plenty of free things to do, including a walk or bike ride along the Border-to-Border Trail .
Also known as the B2B trail, the Border-to-Border Trail is a 40-mile path along the Huron River that crosses several cities and will eventually cross even more.
Its total proposed length is 70 miles, and it’s a large, collaborative effort between local governments to offer a safe and well-maintained space for people to explore the beauty of Michigan.
You can walk, jog or cycle along a number of paths, bridges and overpasses.
There’s never any charge, so you’re free to explore the trail as much or as little as you’d like.
All pathways are kept clean, and it’s common to see kids being pulled in wagons or dogs bounding joyfully on the ends of their owners’ leashes.
If you want to go on an outdoor adventure in Ann Arbor but aren’t sure where to start, hop on the Border-to-Border Trail.
It can take you in multiple directions along the Huron River to offer beautiful sightseeing opportunities.
17. Domino’s Farms Petting Farm
Shu-Hung Liu / Shutterstock
Ann Arbor doesn’t have a zoo, but if you’re looking for fun, fuzzy activities that will delight the young animal lovers in your life, consider making a trip to Domino’s Farms Petting Farm .
Located on the outskirts of the city on a tidy little farm, Domino’s is a place where you can interact with all kinds of cute, docile creatures, including goats, cows, horses and sheep.
You can walk right up to them and touch their fur or give them treats.
The bunnies always love baby carrots!
There are other fun, family-friendly activities to enjoy as well.
For example, you can take a tractor ride or explore a train caboose.
On holidays, there are special events like egg hunts or drive-throughs with Christmas lights.
Ultimately, however, the main draw of Domino’s Farms Petting Farm is the animals.
In a city without a zoo, it fills a crucial void for animal enthusiasts who are visiting Ann Arbor.
Put on your good walking shoes and get ready to see some cuteness!
Address: 3001 Earhart Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, United States
18. Pedal Saloon Ann Arbor
One of the coolest places to see in Ann Arbor is one that doesn’t stay put.
Instead, it’s a pedal-powered “ trolley pub ” that makes its way through the city with groups of people that climb abroad and pedal it.
There are two ways to reserve a spot.
One is to join a mixer as an individual, couple or small group of six people or less; the other is to book the entire trolley for a private party.
Either way, you’re bound to have fun.
It’s a memorable way to see the sights, and you can join specific tours that will take you on a circuit of the best bars, shops, restaurants and landmarks that downtown Ann Arbor has to offer.
You’ll also sneak in some exercise so that you can burn off those Blimpy Burgers while you wander!
Address: 200-300 N Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, United States
19. Furstenberg Nature Area
Furstenberg Nature Area
A stroll through the Furstenberg Nature Area is one of the most romantic things to do in Ann Arbor.
The wind gently rustles the trees; the ducks peacefully swim in the ponds.
Wooden boardwalks are available if you want to take couple’s photos with amazing backdrops.
Everything freezes in the winter, including the lake, so you can walk across its snowy embankments while holding hands with your lover to keep warm.
In the spring and summer, flowers bloom so richly that the air is heavy with dozens of different fragrances.
In the fall, the leaves change color and offer a satisfying crunch beneath your boots as you take a stroll through the scenery.
Other date ideas include biking the trails together or feeding the white swans on the water.
You can also pack a picnic lunch and spread out a blanket under a shaded tree for you and your sweetheart.
If you’re headed to Ann Arbor with a special someone, the Furstenberg Nature Area is the place to go.
It’s so peaceful and beautiful that you’re sure to create very special memories while you’re there together.
Address: 2626 Fuller Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, United States
20. Stonebridge Golf Club
Stonebridge Golf Club
If you enjoy being in nature but don’t like roughing it in the wilderness without access to modern amenities, how about trying a round of golf at the Stonebridge Golf Club ?
There are 18 holes on stunningly green vistas with lakes, woods and sand pits.
Lessons are available at all skill levels for both juniors and adults, and there’s even a driving range and practice facility if you want to warm up your iron before hitting the hills.
When you’ve conquered all 18 holes, check out the bar and grille for dinner and drinks, or hit up the golf shop for all kinds of equipment to improve your game.
You might also enjoy sightseeing in the area around the course since it’s an upscale neighborhood with lots of high-end shops and restaurants.
Long story short, the Stonebridge Golf Club offers enjoyable activities for all types of travelers in Ann Arbor.
Whether you’re an experienced athlete or just an outdoor enthusiast looking to try something new, consider an afternoon spent among the rolling green fields with their cheerfully-waving flags.
Address: 1825 Clubhouse Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, United States
21. Chateau Aeronautique Winery
Chateau Aeronautique Winery
Located a few miles south of Ann Arbor in Jackson, Michigan, the Chateau Aeronautique Winery is an utterly unique experience that combines wine and airplanes.
Yes, you read that right!
This “aeronautique” winery was founded by an airline pilot who decided to deck out the entire destination with grass runaways, airplane seating, vintage WWII posters and bartops fashioned after glider wings.
There are also several classic planes on site, including a 1940 Boeing Stearman and a 1956 Cessna 172s, so you’ll have some fun things to see after you’ve gotten nice and tipsy on the reds.
Ultimately, the Chateau Aeronautique Winery is one of the best things to do near Ann Arbor.
You’ll need to be willing to make the drive to Jackson, Michigan, but once you’re walking through the airpark and marveling at the old-school planes, the extra travel time will be worth it.
Address: 1849 Rives Eaton Rd, Jackson, MI 49201, United States
22. Zingerman’s Bakehouse
Zingerman’s Bakehouse
Zingerman’s is one of the most famous of Ann Arbor attractions.
In fact, it’s so popular that it’s become an entire franchise; there’s a Zingerman’s Delicatessen for soups and sandwiches, a Zingerman’s Creamery for cheeses, gelatos and ice creams, and a Zingerman’s Coffee Company for world-class roasts.
The sweetest destination, however, is Zingerman’s Bakehouse .
It creates everything from everyday pastries to once-in-a-lifetime wedding cakes, and walking through its doors and seeing its sky-high bread shelves is like entering a carb-a-riffic version of Willy Wonka’s factory.
You can shop.
You can sample.
You can even sign up for baking classes that will teach you how to create your own cakes and cookies.
If you have a sweet tooth in Ann Arbor, you won’t want to miss Zingerman’s Bakehouse!
Address: 3711 Plaza Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, United States
23. University of Michigan Museum of Natural History
VasenkaPhotography / flickr
A trip to the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History is one of the most fun things to do in Ann Arbor.
It has so many cool things to see that your head and neck will develop a permanent swivel as you take in the geodes, soil samples, dinosaur bones, taxidermy animals and more!
Permanent exhibits include a “Michigan Wildlife Gallery” where you can see all of the state’s native species and a “Hall of Evolution” where you can trace humanity’s development through skulls and ultra-lifelike recreations of neanderthals.
There are also butterfly gardens, planetarium shows, gigantic whale skeletons and various fossil displays.
You’ll also want to make time for the Quetzalcoatlus.
How many times in your life will you be able to stand under a life-size reconstruction of a pterosaur?
The University of Michigan Museum of Natural History is a one-of-a-kind experience that combines both education and entertainment.
If you’re at all interested in natural history, this is the destination for you.
Address: 1105 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, United States
24. State Street
Susan Montgomery / Shutterstock
State Street is one of the most popular places to go in downtown Ann Arbor.
It’s packed with shops, cafes, restaurants and other lively destinations, and if you visit at the right time, it’s often the center point of citywide fairs and festivals.
The most famous event is the State Street Area Art Fair.
Held every summer, it jingles with the sound of jewel sculptures and glitters with the colorful fibers of textiles and fashion pieces.
There are also Halloween parties, Christmas festivities, Easter celebrations and more.
There’s even a semi-regular State Street Ladies Night if you’re wondering what to do as a single gal in Ann Arbor!
Walk the streets.
See the sights.
Listen to the buskers playing their instruments; breathe deeply around the food trucks and inhale their amazing aromas.
A trip to State Street is one of the most fun things to do in Ann Arbor, so it should be appreciated to the fullest.
Address: S State St, Ann Arbor, MI, United States
25. Ann Arbor Film Festival
Wichai Cheva Photography / Shutterstock
If you love Hitchcock, Scorsese and Spielberg, the Ann Arbor Film Festival is your chance to see the next generation of filmmakers before they get rich and famous.
You see, the festival is dedicated to independent and experimental filmmakers.
It’s been home to many small productions with big visions, and according to its organizers, its main purpose is “promoting film as an art form.”
To that extent, you can find all kinds of movies at the festival, including comedies, dramas, documentaries, animated films, period pieces, slasher flicks and more.
Rather than being rigidly defined by any specific category of film production, it’s a collective celebration of experimental movie making in all forms.
If you’re wondering what to see in the city that you can’t see anywhere else, try the Ann Arbor Film Festival.
It’s one of the top film festivals of its kind, and since it’s only held once per year, it’s a special event that you can look forward to during all other 364 days.
26. The Last Word
The Last Word
If you have “visit a speakeasy” on your bucket list, The Last Word is the place to cross it off.
Located underground, it’s a stylish, dimly-lit bar where the decor is completely vintage and the cocktails are completely delicious.
True to its name, many of its drinks have literary themes, and its menu is shaped like a book with different “chapters” for wine and beer.
You can even flip to the “epilogue” and find cocktails to go!
This scholarly touch is just one of the ways that the bar distinguishes itself as a classy establishment rather than just a place to get drunk in Ann Arbor.
All things considered, the Last Word is one of the coolest places to visit in the city.
If you’re strolling through downtown Ann Arbor at night and wondering what to do after 1AM, this is the place to stop in, pull up a chair and have some nerdy fun.
Address: 301 W Huron St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
27. Necto Nightclub
Necto Nightclub
Necto Nightclub is among the top tourist attractions of Ann Arbor.
As you might expect, it’s not for kids, but it’s otherwise very much a playground for adults!
There are three floors in the club for drinking, dancing and socializing.
Most of the action is visible from the balconies, but there’s also a secret “Red Room” hidden from plain sight that functions as a low-key lounge.
Additionally, when you get tired of the pulsing beats and strobe lights of the main area, there are dark booths in the shadows to offer peace and privacy.
Themed nights are rampant, so whether you’re heading to the club tonight or next year, there’s guaranteed to be something going on.
The only question is whether it’ll involve concerts, drag shows, costume parties, retro parties or more.
Necto Nightclub is one of the most fun things to do in Ann Arbor.
If you’re over the age of 21, make sure to check out this premiere destination for city nightlife!
Address: 516 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
28. Wild Swan Theater
Wild Swan Theater
Wild Swan Theater is dedicated to putting on high-end performances for low-end prices.
Rather than being an expensive, pretentious theater meant only for the rich, it’s a cheap, fun and family-friendly venue, and one of its main goals is to stay accessible even for struggling or low-income audiences.
Tickets are available year-round for various musicals and theater productions.
If you can’t catch a show, there are also lessons, workshops, classes and kid’s camps.
If you happen to have a disabled or neuro-divergent child, there are outreach programs for them, too.
Wild Swan Theater is one of the best Ann Arbor attractions for kids and adults alike.
Its shows can bring the entire family together for a good time, and it’s built on a solid foundation of accessibility.
If you’re lucky, its productions might even instill a lifelong appreciation for the arts in your kids!
Address: 6175 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, United States
29. Graffiti Alley
Josie Hill / flickr
Located on East Liberty Street, “Graffiti Alley” is one of the touchstones of the Ann Arbor community, and it means a lot to the locals even as it doubles as an awesome tourist attraction for visitors.
No one knows who first took a can of spray paint to the alley, but when the city covered it all up with a mural in 1999, rebels were back with their tagging within the week.
They were so thorough in defacing the alley, in fact, that it became the most colorful, vibrant and eye-popping place in the entire city.
Today, there are layers upon layers of graffiti in the alley, and there’s always new work being added.
It’s the kind of place that’s never the same when you visit it.
If you want some visually stunning selfies while you’re in Ann Arbor, check out Graffiti Alley.
Address: E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, United States
Start Planning Your Trip To Ann Arbor
These are just a few of the best things to do in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
It might be well-known for its university, but there’s plenty of fun to be had outside of the campus.
Whether you’re interested in shopping, dining, hiking, biking or bar-hopping, it’s a place to cross off bucket list items for sure!
Happy travels.

**3.** <https://www.annarbor.org/things-to-do/>

Share
Things To Do
Recognized as an urban oasis of recreational opportunities, Ann Arbor offers both big city attractions and natural areas with scenic trails to explore . At any time of the year, there are local events and festivals to enjoy. Urban explorers can kick back and relax at an independent bookstore nestled downtown, or discover the hidden fairy doors sprinkled throughout the city. Whether you want to take a stroll along the Huron River or join the raging crowd on Saturday afternoon at The Big House , Ann Arbor has you covered.
Explore Outdoors
For outdoor enthusiasts, the Ann Arbor area is a truly thrilling experience. From kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding on the Huron River in the summer to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating in the cooler months, there’s plenty to do. Near the charming city of Chelsea , just west of Ann Arbor, some of the best mountain biking trails in the state wind through expansive state parks and recreation areas. In neighboring Ypsilanti , hiking trails and golf courses overlooking Ford Lake offer a one-of-a-kind recreational experience.
Intentionally Inclusive
The LGBTQ community is thriving and active in the Ann Arbor area. With a rich history of activism and fellowship dating back to the 1970s, Ann Arbor is home to Kathy Kozachenko, the first openly gay person to be elected to any office in the United States, and to Jim Toy, a legendary figure in Michigan’s LGBTQ history. The Jim Toy Community Center is located in Braun Court, which also houses \aut\ BAR, the premiere restaurant, bar, and gathering place for the gay community and allies. Numerous LGBTQ events occur in the Ann Arbor area, including drag queen bingo nights, Necto Pride (Michigan’s longest-running LGBTQ night), book clubs, and a large Pride Festival in the Kerrytown area.
Uncommon Commodities
Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities are full of interesting, one-of-a-kind retailers offering goods that truly can’t be found anywhere else. In the downtown Ann Arbor area alone, shops specialize in graphic novels and comics, high-end women’s fashion, internationally-sourced foods and gifts, and much more. Venture just outside the downtown area and you’ll find even more unique shops to explore.
Go Blue!
The University of Michigan and Ann Arbor go hand-in-hand, with an intertwined history and culture. U-M attractions and events are integral to Ann Arbor’s allure, with award-winning art and archaeology museums, awe-inspiring theatrical and musical performances, thrilling athletic events and facilities, and a beautiful campus full of selfie-worthy photo ops.
Captivating Creatives
Art, in its many forms, is arguably the most valued and esteemed piece of the culture and fabric of the Ann Arbor area . A long-time artists community, Ann Arbor is home to renowned galleries , museums and arts non-profits, as well as theatrical and musical organizations that offer performances from local, regional, and international artists. Neighboring Ypsilanti has its own flourishing artists community as well, with a seasonal arts & culture walk on Friday evenings, grassroots theatrical groups, and much more.
315 W. Huron St. Suite 340,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**4.** <https://www.michigan.org/article/itinerary-trip-idea/things-do-ann-arbor-ultimate-pure-michigan-guide>

Close Main Menu
Things to Do in Ann Arbor: The Ultimate Pure Michigan Guide
Ann Arbor is a true Michigan gem. From its eclectic shopping scene to iconic Michigan Stadium, you're sure to find adventure and interest no matter what you do.
The Michigan Theater | Photo Courtesy of Pure Michigan
Share This
Margaret Wyzlic, Communications Director at Destination Ann Arbor , gives her recommendations on her favorite fun things to do and see in the Ann Arbor area.
1. Find The Fairy Doors
If you don’t know about them, odds are, you’d probably walked right by these tiny doors, located throughout downtown Ann Arbor in various storefronts, cafes and galleries. Although going on a ‘fairy door hunt’ in Ann Arbor is a perfect activity for kids, I’ve seen adults just as excited to discover them.
2. Visit the Ann Arbor Farmers Market
The Ann Arbor Farmers Market is open from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Wednesdays (May-December), and 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturdays (January - April). If you're headed to a University of Michigan game or are just strolling the iconic downtown, I'd advise that you plan a grab-and-go breakfast at the market. I always get a coffee from RoosRoast , apple donuts from Kapnick Orchards, or an olive twist from Mill Pond Bread.
3. Check Out Year-Round Unique Events
Ann Arbor Art Fair | Photo Courtesy of Pure Michigan
In the Ann Arbor area, there are celebrations of art, theater, athletics, music, academics, history and more, year-round. Whatever your passions, your pursuits or your pastimes - the Ann Arbor area is full of world-class events that celebrate life and culture in our beautiful city. Check out the Ann Arbor events page to view them all – including our famous Art Fair , Summer Festival and more.
4. Paddle Down The Huron River
If you're looking to get out on the water, a tour down the Huron River via kayak, canoe or paddleboard is the adventure for you. The Huron River is a calm waterway with a few riffles and sections of drops and pools fun for both beginners and watersports enthusiasts. Argo and Gallup Park Canoe Liveries are open every day from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. through the last week in October and the river makes for a beautiful scene when surrounded by snowy banks in the winter.
5. Explore Seasonal Colors
For those looking to explore Ann Arbor fall color on foot – especially during the fall – I have a few favorite places to go: 1) Nichols Arboretum (aka ‘The Arb’ to locals) on U-M’s campus 2) Gallup Park 3) Scio Woods Preserve 4) Hudson Mills Metropark in Dexter (5) Waterloo Recreation Area in Chelsea. These locations offer breathtaking views during every month of the year, whether it be flowers blooming in spring or fantastic sheets of ice in the winter. Bring your camera!
6. Tour University of Michigan’s Campus
I absolutely love exploring the U-M’s beautiful campus. If you have time while you’re here, stop into the U-M Museum of Art (free, open Mon. – Sat.) or the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology (free, open Tues. - Sun.). If you’re looking for an abbreviated tour, central campus is a good place to start. You can easily see Hill Auditorium, The Michigan Union, Angell Hall, Burton Tower, ‘The Diag’, the West Hall Arch, the Clements Library and more in about a half hour. If nothing else, you absolutely must go to the ‘Law Quad’ and peek into the Law Library. You won’t be disappointed.
7. Take a Brew Tour
There are numerous unique breweries in the Ann Arbor Area. Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti always carries my favorite beer (ABC’s Phat Abbot Trippel), Wolverine State Brewing Company’s Tap Room is a favorite local hang out, and Original Gravity in Milan is a hidden hoppy gem. Honestly, they’re all amazing. Arbor Brewing Company, Grizzly Peak, Jolly Pumpkin and Blue Tractor are all within walking distance from each other downtown. Check out Michigan's expansive craft beer scene for more brewery ideas and tours.
8. Catch a Game at the Big House or Crisler Center
There are plenty of places that are great for game-watching fun, but maybe none as iconic as the University of Michigan Football Stadium , more commonly referred to as the Big House. Attending an event at the largest college football stadium in North America or the nearby Crisler Center should be on every Ann Arbor visitor's bucket list. If you'd like to watch a game or event from the comfort of a restaurant, I recommend Haymaker, Fraser’s Pub or Conor O’Neill’s. Aubree’s in Ypsilanti is a great spot too. Make sure to get there early to claim your spot!
9. Eat Delicious Food
Zingerman's Delicatessen | Photo Courtesy of Pure Michigan
Everyone ALWAYS asks me where to eat in Ann Arbor . I never have a straight answer, mostly because there’s way too much to choose from, and I have way too many favorites. Here's my short list: the falafel wrap at Pita Kabob. The TLT at Seva. The Chicken Tortilla Soup at Le Dog. The salmon burger at Monahan’s. A slice of veggie pie at NY Pizza Depot. The #24 at Amer's Deli. And whenever I go to Ayse's Turkish Cafe, I always let her choose (because I
About the Author: Margaret Wyzlic, Communications Director at Destination Ann Arbor. Be sure to follow ‘Destination Ann Arbor’ on Twitter at @AnnArbor and hashtag your visit with #DestinationAnnArbor.

**5.** <https://vacationidea.com/destinations/best-things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-mi.html>

**6.** <https://www.awesomemitten.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-michigan/>

There's Always More to Explore in Ann Arbor Michigan
Whether you plan to spend one day exploring the city or you are hoping to spend the academic year in town, you will find that there are endless things to do in Ann Arbor Michigan for people of all ages and interests.
Some call it “Tree Town” while others refer to it as “A-Squared” (A2), but no matter what you call it, everyone knows that the City of Ann Arbor is one of the most happening places in Michigan.
Ann Arbor’s vibrant atmosphere is anchored by the University of Michigan, which brings in more than 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students every year into the city, and its commitment to cultural cultivation is fueled by the many professors, young professionals, and long-time, full-time residents who call the city home.
People who are searching for good food, interesting experiences, and educational opportunities will find no shortage of options in Ann Arbor. The historic downtown area is home to dozens of locally-owned shops, restaurants, and businesses, and the surrounding community is shaded by the thousands upon thousands of trees that thrive in Ann Arbor.
About Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor has a reputation for being a college town, a cultural hub, a foodie destination, and a tech-savvy community. In short, it’s a melting pot with multiple identities, making it one of the few places in the state where anyone can arrive and feel instantly at home.
Modern ideals continue to push the city further and further into the future, but it’s still possible to uncover the charm of the past in this city. Before you begin exploring the Ann Arbor of today, it’s important to understand how this community came to be.
History of Ann Arbor
While the land that now makes up Ann Arbor was once the home of the Potawatomi tribes, it was settled by European speculators in 1825. The two men who founded the city named it after their wives — who both were named Ann — as well as the abundance of oak trees in the area. At the time, they founded the city as “Annarbour” but it grew to one day be known by two words, Ann Arbor.
Within a decade of settlement, the landowners in the community made a bid to make Ann Arbor the state’s capital. It may not have won the coveted title of Michigan’s capital city, but it was awarded the honor of being the home to the new University of Michigan. In 1837, the university was founded, meaning that both the university as well as the city itself have grown in tandem with one another, forming an inextricable link between the two.
Not even two years after the university was founded, the Michigan Central Railroad arrived, connecting Ann Arbor with Toledo and transforming the community into a bustling hub of activity. Soon, people began arriving from all over the world, hoping to make Ann Arbor their home.
The city grew and prospered into the 20th century, quickly developing a reputation for being an active, progressive community. Today, Ann Arbor is a melting pot with citizens from all over the world. The young minds who study at the university combined with the experts who lead it have created a cultural community unlike anything else in the Great Lakes State.
Ann Arbor Art Center | photo via @jeremywheeler
Outdoor Things to Do in Ann Arbor Michigan
Named in part due to the thousands of trees that grow in the area, it comes as no surprise that there are an abundance of outdoor activities to try in Ann Arbor. These are just a few of the ways that you can experience the natural beauty of the community.
Kayak the Huron River
Perhaps the most peaceful — and maybe also the most popular — outdoor activity to try in Ann Arbor is kayaking down the Huron River . The Huron River is a gentle river that flows on the outskirts of Ann Arbor, making it the perfect place for people of all skill levels to try their hand at paddling.
There are two river trips that you can embark on in Ann Arbor. The Argo Park to Gallup Park trip is a favorite among locals and visitors because it is a gentle stretch of river and the trip takes about an hour and a half to complete.
For a more adventurous experience, you might consider the nearly six-mile trip from Barton to Gallop which takes about two-and-a-half hours to finish.
Skip’s Huron River Canoe Livery | photo via @cause\_effect
Ann Arbor Farmers Market
For more than a century, locals have been getting fresh produce and artisan products at the historic Ann Arbor Farmers Market .
While other Michigan farmers markets in the area open up during the summer months and the early fall, this extensive farmers market is open on Saturdays all year long.
During the summer, guests are able to shop at the market from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both Wednesdays and Saturdays. At any given market, you will discover more than 120 vendors who sell a vast range of products, including fresh produce, dairy products, pastries, international cuisine, and more.
Ann Arbor Farmers Market | photo via Lynsday Israel
Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum
The Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum is an outdoor space that is more than just a sanctuary for those who want to immerse themselves in nature — it’s a living, breathing educational facility dedicated to promoting the cause of environmental stewardship.
At the gardens, visitors are able to wind their way through various gardens, some of which are ornately designed and others that focus more on preserving natural ecosystems. From babbling brooks and quaint ponds to labyrinths designed to reflection, there are places where everyone can find peace, comfort, and joy outdoors.
Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum | photo via UofM
Kerrytown Market & Shops
Kerrytown is a historic neighborhood in Ann Arbor that is best known for its well-preserved brick buildings and charming appeal. While it was once a residential area, today it is a series of markets and shops, where some of the most iconic destinations in Ann Arbor are located.
Zingerman’s Deli , the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, and Braun Court are just a few of the best places to visit on a sunshine-filled day in Ann Arbor.
Nickels Arcade
Stepping into the Nickels Arcade feels as if you are taking a trip through time. This covered, historic shopping area was established in 1917, and to this day, it houses some of the oldest retail businesses in the city.
Technically considered an outdoor attraction, the Nickels Arcade is a great place to visit — regardless of the weather. It is one of the best places in the city for antique shopping.
Nickels Arcade | photo via @jwycko
Ann Arbor Parks
It comes as no surprise that a city dedicated to environmentalism and sustainability has many parks for its residents, students, and visitors to enjoy. These are just a few of the best parks in Ann Arbor:
Gallup Park — Located along the shores of the Huron River, Gallup Park is one of the largest and most well-loved parks in the city. Consisting of more than 69 acres, this park features an idyllic pond, riverfront access, watercraft rentals, scenic walkways, and three different playgrounds.
Buhr Park — Buh r Park is a family-friendly park in Ann Arbor that is always bustling with activity. Known for its extensive recreational facilities, this park features an outdoor pool, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and a playground. During the winter, the park creates a seasonal ice rink and there is a sledding hill to enjoy.
Lillie Park — On the outskirts of the city, Lillie Park provides an escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life. This park features picnic areas, a hiking trail, a designated fishing area, soccer fields, a playground, and picnic areas.
Buhr Park | photo via @khodson08
Public Golf Courses in Ann Arbor
Golf has long been a treasured pastime in Ann Arbor. Today, there are more than 20 different public golf courses in the city and throughout the surrounding area — some of which have been hosting golfers for more than a century.
Some of the best public golf courses in Ann Arbor include:
Leslie Park Golf Course
U-M Golf Course
Michigan Stadium – The Big House
No Ann Arbor experience is truly complete without a visit to Michigan Stadium . Known to all locals and students as “The Big House,” this football stadium can seat more than 100,000 people. On any given Saturday in the fall, the thunderous roar of the crowd can be heard across town.
Football fans know that there is no other stadium that offers the same atmosphere or game-day experience, which is why a trip to The Big House is on the bucket list of many Michigan travelers.
Michigan Stadium – The Big House | photo via @slydro
Graffiti Alley
If you are the kind of person who likes to discover hidden gems while you are exploring local communities, then Graffiti Alley is one of the best outdoor attractions in Ann Arbor. It would be easy to pass by this small walkway and ignore it — but it’s actually an ever-evolving work of art that welcomes graffiti artists.
Graffiti Alley can be found off of Liberty Street in Downtown Ann Arbor. For decades, artists have been coming to the alley to leave their mark and make a point, and as a result, every trip to Graffiti Alley is bound to be different than the last.
Graffiti Alley | photo via Lyndsay Israel
Border-to-Border Trail
The Border-to-Border Trail is known to most locals as the B2B Trail. This 35-mile accessible trail is maintained by Washtenaw County and is one of the top recreational trails in the community.
Featuring 6 trail pathways and paved trails the entire way, this trail is the best way to reach many of the top attractions in the county.
Border-to-Border Trail | photo via @elisas543
Domino’s Farms Petting Farm
The Petting Farm at Domino’s Farms is a favorite family-friendly attraction in Ann Arbor. This farm provides visitors of all ages with a hands-on, immersive experience where they can meet, pet, and feed the farm animals.
The farm is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and some of the animals at the farm include cows, horses, goats, alpacas, and llamas.
Domino’s Farms Petting Farm | photo via @lockett\_pocket33
Furstenberg Nature Area
Located just west of Gallup Park, the Furstenberg Nature Area is one of the best places for wildlife watching in Ann Arbor. Consisting of more than 38 acres, this natural preserve features spectacular Huron River views as well as trails that wind through various ecosystems, including wetlands, prairie, and woodland areas.
Indoor Things to Do in Ann Arbor Michigan
When you need a break from the elements, you will find plenty of indoor things to do in Ann Arbor. These attractions are beloved by local residents and visitors of all ages, allowing everyone to make the most out of their time in the city.
Planet Rock
There may not be a lot of natural rock climbing opportunities in Ann Arbor, but fortunately, you can still scale to the tallest heights at Planet Rock. Planet Rock in Ann Arbor is considered one of the top rock climbing facilities in the state, and there are adventurous excursions available for people of all ages and skill levels.
Planet Rock
Michigan Theater
The Michigan Theater is a historic theater in downtown Ann Arbor that is the heart of the community’s arts and culture scene. At this theater, patrons are able to view performances by the Not Just for Kids children’s theater production, the University Musical Society, and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.
In addition, the theater showcases films in a variety of formats and is known for its state-of-the-art sound system. Of course, the most iconic moment of any performance at the theater is the organ introduction, a classic touch that is hard to find these days.
Michigan Theater
Hill Auditorium
Located on the University of Michigan campus, Hill Auditorium is considered to be one of the best concert halls in the world. This concert hall was built in 1913, and it seats more than 3,500 people. Known for its incredible acoustics, most people consider themselves lucky to hear concerts performed in this venue.
Hill Auditorium | photo via @ya\_boi\_blake\_
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library
While the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum is located more than 100 miles away in Grand Rapids, the Presidential Library is situated on the University of Michigan’s campus. This sprawling library is filled with important archival materials from the Gerald Ford Administration.
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library | photo via @prezponderings
Ann Arbor Ice Cube
The Ann Arbor Ice Cube is the best place in the city to enjoy hockey, skating lessons, figure skating, and more. No matter what time of year it is, the ice is frozen and ready for skating at The Cube, as it is affectionately known by the locals. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome.
Ann Arbor Ice Cube | photo via Ann Arbor Ice Cube
Ann Arbor Museums
With the University of Michigan’s campus located in the heart of the city, you can practically feel the educational atmosphere in the city. It’s not surprising that this esteemed city that values scholarly inquiry is home to many Michigan museums , such as the:
Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum | photo via @\_lifeofmama
Annual Festivals and Events in Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor is a community that loves to bring people together, which is why the city hosts several annual festivals and events throughout the year. Some of the most popular festivals and events in Ann Arbor include:
Ann Arbor Art Fair
Every year in late July, more than 500,000 people from across the Midwest head to Ann Arbor in order to experience the famed Ann Arbor Art Fair .
This massive art fair takes place over 30 blocks in the city’s downtown area and brings more than 1,000 artists to town. It is one of the best places to shop for local art, such as paintings, sculptures, jewelry, photography, and more.
Ann Arbor Symphony
The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra puts on a variety of performances throughout its annual season, allowing full-time residents, students, and visitors to experience their incredible symphonic concerts.
The season typically begins in September and spans through April, with nearly a dozen performances taking place throughout that time.
Ann Arbor Symphony | photo via @ya\_boi\_blake\_
Ann Arbor Film Festival
For more than 60 years, the Ann Arbor Film Festival has been promoting the innovative work of visionary filmmakers. This festival, which is the oldest and longest-running avant-garde film festival on the continent, takes place each year in March.
Ann Arbor Film Festival | photo via @bonaventurasara
Ann Arbor Summer Festival (A2SF)
The city kicks off the summer season each year with the Ann Arbor Summer Festival . Known to most locals as A2SF, this festival is a four-week exhibition that celebrates all things arts and culture as well as outdoor entertainment.
The focus of the festival is to build community and to bring people together, all while connecting over a shared bond of the performing arts. Throughout the festival, there are more than 200 performances, activities, and experiences to enjoy, and nearly 80,000 people attend every year.
Ann Arbor Summer Festival | photo via @hh.bingyan
Best Ann Arbor Restaurants
If you are planning a trip to Ann Arbor, make sure that you arrive with an appetite. This city has an abundance of restaurants, ranging from sophisticated locales with luxurious dining rooms to fast-paced delis that have become famous around the world.
No matter what type of meal you are craving, you are sure to find the food that sounds good to you in one of best Ann Arbor restaurants .
Casual Restaurants in Ann Arbor
Much of the Ann Arbor food scene is dominated by international restaurants and eclectic dining experiences, which can seem intimidating to those who are looking for a more casual style.
Fortunately, the city also is home to many cozy, comfortable, and welcoming casual restaurants, including:
Zingerman’s Roadhouse | photo via Lyndsay Israel
Fine Dining in Ann Arbor
Whether you live in Ann Arbor full-time or you are simply stopping by for a few days, you will find that there’s always a reason to celebrate when you are in town.
Fortunately, there are many magnificent fine dining restaurants in the city, each of which offers a distinct atmosphere, a worldly menu, and exceptional service.
One of the most famous fine-dining restaurants in Ann Arbor is:
Weber’s Restaurant | photo via @hungrydrummer
Places to Get Coffee and Ice Cream in Ann Arbor
With its dynamic downtown area, Ann Arbor is the kind of place where people love to stroll. And there is no better way to enhance your walk through Ann Arbor than with a coffee in your hand or an ice cream on a cone.
In this city, you will find that there’s no such thing as mass-produced coffee and ice cream. Here, you will find handcrafted creations that emphasize flavor while utilizing local ingredients. These are some of the best places to get coffee and ice cream in Ann Arbor:
HopCat | photo via @marywave\_foodie
Where to Stay in Ann Arbor Michigan
In order to enjoy an authentic Ann Arbor experience, it’s important to stay at a locally-owned hotel, vacation rental, or campground. These are some of the places that will allow you to make the most of your time in the city:
Ann Arbor Regent Hotel & Suites — Centrally located and offering convenient access to the best things to do in Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Regent Hotel & Suites is considered to be one of the top hotels in the city. This family-owned hotel has a reputation for excellence and is known for its clean, chic style and personal service.
Weber’s Boutique Hotel — For 85 years, Weber’s Boutique Hotel has been welcoming guests to the city of Ann Arbor. Redefined with a modern style, this hotel is known for its elegant accommodations, its fine dining restaurant, and its lively entertainment scene.
Detroit/Ann Arbor KOA Holiday — Just outside the city limits, outdoor enthusiasts and devoted campers will find the Detroit/Ann Arbor KOA Holiday . This modern campground is located in nearby Ypsilanti and is open throughout the entire year. It features a private lake, fishing area, dog park, and mini-golf course, making it a fun and inviting destination for families.
Detroit/Ann Arbor KOA Holiday | photo via @marcobrugnoli
In addition to these hotels and campgrounds, you will find that there are many vacation rentals in Ann Arbor available. Ann Arbor has a high percentage of rental properties, largely due to its transient student population.
As a result, there are many landlords who are willing to rent out rooms or homes for short periods of time over the summer months, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the neighborhoods of Ann Arbor and truly get a feel for this community.
Ann Arbor vacation rentals are ideal for families who want a home-like environment, young professionals who want to surround themselves with the local people, or travelers who are looking for a budget-friendly way to experience the pulse of the community.
Weber’s Boutique Hotel | photo via Weber’s Boutique Hotel
There’s Always More to Explore in Ann Arbor Michigan
Ann Arbor is one of those places that is constantly changing, growing, and progressing toward the future, yet it also has this magical ability to always feel the same.
Those who haven’t been to the city in years report a sensation of coming home when they get to Ann Arbor, and graduates who return to their Alma Mater are able to surround themselves with feelings of nostalgia while also enjoying the new offerings within the city limits.
There are many cities to explore in Michigan, each with its own atmosphere and attractions, but there are none quite like Ann Arbor . This eclectic urban community offers natural beauty, flavorful food, quirky locales, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.
Whether you are searching for things to do in Ann Arbor during the summer or you are hoping to find cozy, indoor activities to enjoy in the winter, you are sure to find what you are looking for in this fantastic city.
The Awesome Mitten team is our small team of authors and editors that research and write our in-depth guides throughout the site and update past content to make sure it's still super valuable to you.
Similar Posts

**7.** <https://travel2next.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-michigan/>

20 Things To Do In Ann Arbor
By
Updated on Oct 23rd, 2022
- This post may contain affiliate links. Read our disclosure.
The story of Ann Arbor begins with the wives of the village’s two founders, both women sharing the name of Ann, and so Ann Arbor was formed. Since then, Ann Arbor has grown into a well-known and attractive city, largely due to the University of Michigan, founded in 1817. In 2008, Ann Arbor was ranked 27th out of 100 “America’s best small cities”. Read on to discover the best things to do in Ann Arbor.
Contents
Ann Arbor, Michigan
20 Things To Do In Ann Arbor
Looking for things to do in Ann Arbor, Michigan? Our top 20 list will help you out.
1- Discover The Fairy Doors
The most magical aspect of Ann Arbor is its mystical Fairy Doors scattered around the city.
These art installations (or gateways to a magical universe, however you choose to see them) first appeared in 1993 (the first public installation appeared in 2005) and have become a charming element of the city.
In the doors’ early days, visitors could write in visitor books near the fairy doors and ask questions about the fairies or draw the fairies they spotted nearby.
A compilation of these notes and drawings can be found in Jonathan B. Wright’s book Who’s Behind the Fairy Doors.
One of the main Fairy Doors of Ann Arbor is at 210 S Main Street #1, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
A list of locations for all of the doors can be found here .
2- Relax In The Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Exploring Matthaei Botanical Gardens is one of the things to do in Ann Arbor.
The University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens covers 300 acres (121 ha) and includes botanical gardens, a conservatory, a garden store and research habitats.
There are nature trails for hiking and exploring.
In the gardens, look for the Gaffield Children’s Garden and the restored prairie, which has more than 100 native species of wildflowers, a farmhouse from the 1860s and a bonsai collection.
The Matthaei Botanical Gardens is at 1800 N Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105.
3- Shop At Kerrytown Farmers Market
Shopping at the farmer’s market is one of the colourful things to do in Ann Arbor.
The Kerrytown Farmers Market has been functioning for over 90 years and remains a popular spot to find fresh and delicious produce and products such as fruits and vegetables, plants, meat, eggs, cheese, flowers, honey and crafts.
The farmer’s market also has an incredible selection of organic goods.
The market also sells T-shirts and tote bags that make perfect and unique souvenirs and gifts for others.
The Kerrytown Farmers Market is at 316N N 4th Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
Also read:
20 Things To Do In Lansing
4- Explore Lillie Park
Lille Park is a picture of peace and tranquillity.
You can find stunning gazebos and picturesque wooden bridges stretching over rivers and trails here.
The main perk of the park is that it is in the centre of the city, so you can escape into a little slice of heaven without straying far away from the amenities and comforts of the city.
Lillie Park is at 4365 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108.
5- Watch A Match At Michigan Stadium
Watching a game is one of the fun things to do in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
The Michigan Stadium, or the “Big House”, is the home ground football stadium for the University of Michigan.
It holds the University’s main graduation ceremonies, hockey games, soccer matches and college football games.
The stadium’s claim to fame is that it is the biggest stadium in the United States and the entire Western Hemisphere.
It also ranks as the third-largest stadium in the world.
Michigan Stadium is at 1201 South Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
6- Walk Through Graffiti Alley
Wandering through graffiti alley is another of the interesting things to do in Ann Arbor.
Is graffiti truly art?
Answer this question by visiting Graffiti Alley and wandering through the various spray paint designs covering the entire passageway.
The alley allows you to come face-to-face with spectacularly creative works that are as varied as they are beautiful.
Graffiti Alley is the number one spot in the city for anyone looking for that truly Instagram-worthy photo.
Graffiti Alley is at East Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
7- Go On A Scavenger Hunt
Explore the city in an educational but fun way by participating in one of the many local scavenger hunts on offer.
The scavenger hunts guide you around beautiful and iconic sites within the city and the University grounds.
They also provide fascinating information about these locations and fun activities to complete during your tour.
For the Zombie Scavenger hunt , your team will be asked to complete certain tasks and activities to gain points to survive the zombie apocalypse.
The Zombie Scavengers Scavenger Hunt is at 201 South Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. The Let’s Roam Scavenger Hunt is at 313 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
8- Watch Ice Hockey At Ann Arbor Ice Cube
Watching figure skating or ice hockey is another thing to do in Ann Arbor.
Whether it’s winter or summer, check out the eternally cold Ann Arbor Ice Cube and take a spin around the interior ice rink.
The rink is open to skaters of all skill levels, though, due to the popularity of ice hockey in Michigan, there’s a good chance you’ll see some rather impressive displays on the ice or even some practising figure skaters.
Ann Arbor Ice Cube is at 2121 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103.
9- Admire Art At UMMA
Whether you are an art connoisseur or a complete novice, the University of Michigan Museum of Art has such a variety of artworks that it’s guaranteed that there will be something within this museum for everyone.
The museum even houses pieces from some of the greatest artists, such as Picasso and even Monet himself.
The museum also hosts special events such as film showings and classes in various artistic mediums.
University of Michigan Museum of Art is at 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.
10- See The Neanderthals
Visiting the natural history museum is one of the things to do in Ann Arbor.
The University of Michigan of Natural History is as equally inspiring as its counterpart, the University of Michigan Museum of Art.
Where the Museum of Art displays the world around us through artworks painted onto canvas or sculpted out of stone, the Museum of Natural History displays exhibits including tangible pieces of our world’s history right before your eyes.
Here you can see geodes, whale skeletons, and even dinosaur bones.
The museum also has a “Hall of Evolution” that displays fascinating recreations of Neanderthals.
The University of Michigan Museum of Natural History is at 1105 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.
11- Visit The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
If you’re looking for things to do in Ann Arbor, here are 20 to get you going.
Although the University’s art and natural history museums are impressive, they lack the hands-on, kinetic experience offered that allows you to interact and touch exhibits.
This experience is offered at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.
10 galleries are packed with interactive and educational exhibits here.
This museum has everything from human-sized bubble machines to morse code telegraphs.
The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is at 220 East Ann Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
12- Explore The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology looks like a fantasy castle plucked straight from the pages of a storybook.
The treasures inside are even more breathtaking.
The artifacts on display come from all over the world, from prehistoric to medieval times, and are from various civilisations such as Greek, Byzantine, Roman and Egyptian.
The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology is at 434 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.
13- See A Show At Michigan Theater
A shining, sparkling landmark of Ann Arbor, the Michigan Theater provides a portal into the past.
Whether you’re catching a movie, attending a show, or simply admiring the stunning historic architecture, the theatre will surely provide a night you’ll never forget.
Head to the theatre on a Thursday to experience the Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series, which includes speakers such as Studio Safar, Andrea Carlson and Cey Adams.
The Michigan Theater is at 603 East Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
14- Watch A Performance At Hill Auditorium
Another venue with a stunning exterior, Hill Auditorium, is the largest performance venue on the University of Michigan campus.
It hosts a variety of events and shows ranging from Trevor Noah to the Philidelphia Orchestra.
Some iconic past performances include those by Bob Marley and G-Eazy.
The Hill Auditorium is at 825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.
15- Taste Delicious Treats At Zingerman’s Bakehouse
Enjoy bakery delights.
After working up an appetite for exploring the city and all the fantastic attractions that Ann Arbor has to offer, it’s a good idea to stop at Zingerman’s Bakehouse.
The bakehouse offers all kinds of tasty treats, such as pastries, cakes, cookies and bread.
There are rotating monthly specials such as bread or cake of the month.
Zingerman’s Bakehouse is at 3711 Plaza Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108.
16- Shop For Local Art At State Street Area Art Fair
The State Street Art Fair is one of the three nationally recognised art fairs that make up the Ann Arbor Art Fair for three days in July every year.
The Art Fair has functioned for over 50 years and includes local businesses and fine art created by local artisans.
The artwork displayed at the fair includes many mediums such as glass, metal, oil paints and jewellery.
The State Street Art Fair stretches over an entire neighbourhood, but the original (and still existing) section of the fair can be found at East Washington and Fletcher and North University and Fletcher.
17- Drink At The Last Word Speakeasy
Although the original designs of Speakeasies were created out of an unfortunate necessity, the positive ambience and sophistication of these bars live on in The Last Word Speakeasy.
The bar’s theme is anything literary and the menu itself is formatted as a “book” with different chapters.
Taste their impressive selection of Michigan craft beers for that special local taste.
The Last Word Speakeasy is at 301 West Huron Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
18- Taste Craft Beer At HopCat
With over 100 different beers (both local and even international) to choose from, HopCat is the Willy Wonka Factory of brewed beverages.
The food menu is just as impressive (and delicious) as the drinks and there’s even an adorably named kids menu for the HopKittens among you, as well as a brunch menu to boot.
HopCat also offers special events such as live music and “gourmet nights”.
HopCat is at 311 Maynard Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
19- Admire The Flowers At The Arb
The Nichols Arboretum, known by locals as “the Arb”, is open from sunrise to sunset every single day with free admission and is a common and frequent meeting place for students from the University of Michigan.
On a sunny day, you can find students relaxing, sunbathing, and studying on the grass.
In the winter, you might even be so lucky as to catch a glimpse of students using trays from the dining hall as makeshift sleds to sled down the hills.
Currently, the Arb is home to Shakespeare in the Arb, which are performances of Shakespeare’s plays that take place on the grounds.
The Nichols Arboretum is at 899 Nichols Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109.
20- Go Window Shopping At Nickels Arcade
The Nickels Arcade is a covered collection of adorable and specialty shops.
The arcade was built in 1918 and includes a 261-foot corridor composed of mosaic tiles.
The arcade is also the perfect spot to grab a coffee at Comet Coffee and enjoy people-watching.
Spend some time soaking up the area’s ambience while also soaking up the sunlight that trickles down through the skylight.
The Nickels Arcade is known as the place to find high-quality and luxury items.
The Nickels Arcade is at 326 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.
20 Things To Do In Oshkosh WI
Share

**8.** <https://travel.usnews.com/Ann_Arbor_MI/Things_To_Do/>

12 Best Things To Do in Ann Arbor
Updated March 23, 2022
Whether you're looking to cheer on the Michigan Wolverines at a college football game or kayak down the tranquil Huron River Water Trail , Ann
... READ MORE
Whether you're looking to cheer on the Michigan Wolverines at a college football game or kayak down the tranquil Huron River Water Trail , Ann Arbor has something for you. Museum lovers will have plenty of options thanks to the University of Michigan 's 16-plus museums, ranging from the Museum of Natural History to the Museum of Art . Or, if you'd rather enjoy a more natural form of beauty, head to the university-affiliated Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum , which feature photo-worthy forest views and rugged trails. Outside campus, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is a hit among families with young kids, and Kerrytown is worth visiting for its farmers market, boutiques and tasty dining options. You can also get tickets to see a black-and-white movie at the retro Michigan Theater or stroll down Nickels Arcade , a historic shopping area dating back to 1918.
Address: 500 S State St
Museums, Free, Parks and Gardens, Sports, Tours, Sightseeing
TYPE
Museums, Free, Parks and Gardens, Sports, Tours, Sightseeing
TYPE
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
As the crown jewel of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan boasts many of the city's top attractions. Start your visit by touring the manicured grounds of the campus, which was opened in Ann Arbor in 1837 (though the school got its start in Detroit in 1817). U-M has a total enrollment of about 48,000 students and stretches across a massive 3,207 acres. You'll find University of Michigan properties dispersed throughout Ann Arbor, though the main campus is centrally located within the city near parks, museums, bars and dining establishments.
When it comes to things to do on campus, you won't be left scratching your head. The university is home to 30 stunning libraries and more than 16 museums, including the Museum of Natural History , the Museum of Art , the Kelsey Museum of Archeology, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Nichols Arboretum , the Herbarium and the Sindecuse Museum of Dentistry. Other points of interest include the William W. Cook Law Quadrangle (a 10-acre compound comprising pristine green space and impressive gothic-style buildings), the Gerald R. Ford Library and Hill Auditorium (a classical music concert hall). You'll even find a hotel and restaurants on the premises. Campus visitors praised the gorgeous architecture and were wowed by the sheer size of the university. They also enjoyed the many museums on-site.
As the crown jewel of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan boasts many of the city's top attractions. Start your visit by touring the manicured grounds of the campus, which was opened in Ann Arbor in 1837 (though the school got its start in Detroit in 1817). U-M has a total enrollment of about 48,000 students and stretches across a massive 3,207 acres. You'll find University of Michigan properties dispersed throughout Ann Arbor, though the main campus is centrally located within the city near parks, museums, bars and dining establishments.
When it comes to things to do on campus, you won't be left scratching your head. The university is home to 30 stunning libraries and more than 16 museums, including the Museum of Natural History , the Museum of Art , the Kelsey Museum of Archeology, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Nichols Arboretum , the Herbarium and the Sindecuse Museum of Dentistry. Other points of interest include the William W. Cook Law Quadrangle (a 10-acre compound comprising pristine green space and impressive gothic-style buildings), the Gerald R. Ford Library and Hill Auditorium (a classical music concert hall). You'll even find a hotel and restaurants on the premises. Campus visitors praised the gorgeous architecture and were wowed by the sheer size of the university. They also enjoyed the many museums on-site.
2 hours to Half Day
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
The Museum of Natural History was founded in 1956, though the university began collecting and storing artifacts and specimens as early as 1837. Then called the Exhibit Museum, it was officially renamed the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History in 2011, and in 2019 it moved into a brand-new facility on campus.
Popular exhibits include "Dynamic Space," "On the Trail of the Mastodons" (where male and female mastodon skeletons stand side by side), and "Under the Microscope," which explores life at the cellular level. There is also an on-site planetarium. Visitors to the museum were impressed by the detailed exhibits and huge amount of information in the new facility. They extolled the nicely designed space and said their children loved the hands-on activities dispersed throughout.
The Museum of Natural History was founded in 1956, though the university began collecting and storing artifacts and specimens as early as 1837. Then called the Exhibit Museum, it was officially renamed the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History in 2011, and in 2019 it moved into a brand-new facility on campus.
Popular exhibits include "Dynamic Space," "On the Trail of the Mastodons" (where male and female mastodon skeletons stand side by side), and "Under the Microscope," which explores life at the cellular level. There is also an on-site planetarium. Visitors to the museum were impressed by the detailed exhibits and huge amount of information in the new facility. They extolled the nicely designed space and said their children loved the hands-on activities dispersed throughout.
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
The University of Michigan Museum of Art, or UMMA, opened in 1909 as a war memorial, alumni office and art space. Today, it is one of the oldest (and largest) campus museums in the United States, holding more than 21,000 pieces of art. Collections include Asian, African and Western art in all sorts of mediums, including photography, glass and metal. Permanent exhibits feature the works of artists like Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. The museum also has an auditorium for lectures, film screenings and other events. Recent travelers found the museum to be comprehensive and informative. For many, UMMA's small size worked to their advantage; the manageable footprint allowed patrons to get through much of the collections.
UMMA is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed on Mondays and on university holidays. Admission is free of charge, and street parking is available. Other nearby points of interest include the Law Quadrangle, the Kelsey Museum of Archeology and the student union. To learn more, visit the University of Michigan Museum of Art website .
The University of Michigan Museum of Art, or UMMA, opened in 1909 as a war memorial, alumni office and art space. Today, it is one of the oldest (and largest) campus museums in the United States, holding more than 21,000 pieces of art. Collections include Asian, African and Western art in all sorts of mediums, including photography, glass and metal. Permanent exhibits feature the works of artists like Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. The museum also has an auditorium for lectures, film screenings and other events. Recent travelers found the museum to be comprehensive and informative. For many, UMMA's small size worked to their advantage; the manageable footprint allowed patrons to get through much of the collections.
UMMA is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. It is closed on Mondays and on university holidays. Admission is free of charge, and street parking is available. Other nearby points of interest include the Law Quadrangle, the Kelsey Museum of Archeology and the student union. To learn more, visit the University of Michigan Museum of Art website .
Half Day to Full Day
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
The Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum are operated by the same organization on the grounds of the University of Michigan . The Matthaei Gardens feature 11 outdoor spaces with bonsai, medicinal plants and seasonal blooms, as well as approximately 3 miles of scenic trails. There is also an indoor conservatory that is open year-round – ideal if you are visiting during Michigan's icy months. At Matthaei's visitor center, you will find maps and other information, as well as restrooms and a snack bar. Recent travelers had nothing but positive things to say about the expansive grounds and gorgeous flowers, noting it is a great attraction for all ages.
Meanwhile, Nichols Arboretum is a joint operation between the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. It is a 123-acre property with varying landscapes, ranging from wetlands to forests to glacial grounds. At the arboretum, travelers can hike up to panoramic views and enjoy the tranquility of nature, without venturing far from civilization. Recent travelers remarked Nichols is a delightful hidden gem, and many said the Peony Garden – which typically blooms between late May and mid-June – is a must-see.
The Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum are operated by the same organization on the grounds of the University of Michigan . The Matthaei Gardens feature 11 outdoor spaces with bonsai, medicinal plants and seasonal blooms, as well as approximately 3 miles of scenic trails. There is also an indoor conservatory that is open year-round – ideal if you are visiting during Michigan's icy months. At Matthaei's visitor center, you will find maps and other information, as well as restrooms and a snack bar. Recent travelers had nothing but positive things to say about the expansive grounds and gorgeous flowers, noting it is a great attraction for all ages.
Meanwhile, Nichols Arboretum is a joint operation between the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan. It is a 123-acre property with varying landscapes, ranging from wetlands to forests to glacial grounds. At the arboretum, travelers can hike up to panoramic views and enjoy the tranquility of nature, without venturing far from civilization. Recent travelers remarked Nichols is a delightful hidden gem, and many said the Peony Garden – which typically blooms between late May and mid-June – is a must-see.
Parks and Gardens, Hiking, Swimming/Pools
TYPE
Half Day to Full Day
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
The Huron River Water Trail covers 104 miles through Michigan's Lower Peninsula and welcomes more than 2 million visitors annually. The paddling zones of the river range from raging rapids to calm waters. Ann Arbor is the largest of five Trail Towns where visitors can enter the river, find amenities like parks and boat storage and frequent nearby campgrounds, hotels and dining establishments. While paddling is available in the spring and summer, visitors can cross-country ski, snowshoe and ice skate in the area if they visit in the winter months.
The Ann Arbor region of the Huron River Water Trail comprises miles 53 to 46. Popular launch points along this section include the Argo Nature Area and Livery, as well as the Gallup Park and Livery. At Argo, travelers can rent canoes, kayaks and multiperson rafts to paddle downstream through beautiful scenery, placid ponds and Argo Cascades, which features adrenaline-pumping manmade drops and pools. At Gallup Park, choose between canoe, kayak, paddleboat and rowboat rentals for your river adventure. On shore, the park features a 3-mile asphalt trail, playgrounds, fishing spots, picnic areas and concession stands.
The Huron River Water Trail covers 104 miles through Michigan's Lower Peninsula and welcomes more than 2 million visitors annually. The paddling zones of the river range from raging rapids to calm waters. Ann Arbor is the largest of five Trail Towns where visitors can enter the river, find amenities like parks and boat storage and frequent nearby campgrounds, hotels and dining establishments. While paddling is available in the spring and summer, visitors can cross-country ski, snowshoe and ice skate in the area if they visit in the winter months.
The Ann Arbor region of the Huron River Water Trail comprises miles 53 to 46. Popular launch points along this section include the Argo Nature Area and Livery, as well as the Gallup Park and Livery. At Argo, travelers can rent canoes, kayaks and multiperson rafts to paddle downstream through beautiful scenery, placid ponds and Argo Cascades, which features adrenaline-pumping manmade drops and pools. At Gallup Park, choose between canoe, kayak, paddleboat and rowboat rentals for your river adventure. On shore, the park features a 3-mile asphalt trail, playgrounds, fishing spots, picnic areas and concession stands.
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
If you are looking for an authentic Ann Arbor culinary experience, Kerrytown is the place to find it. Named after County Kerry in Ireland, the district was part of the original Ann Arbor village dating back to the mid-1800s. In the 1960s, developers added a central shopping and dining area to the eclectic neighborhood and called it Kerrytown Market & Shops. Much of the architectural character from decades past still remains; visitors can expect to find brick buildings and sidewalks, original exposed beams, converted 19th-century factories and more.
Kerrytown Market & Shops is home to some of the city's most beloved dining mainstays, including the Ann Arbor Farmers Market and Zingerman's Deli, a local institution that's served up premium deli sandwiches (including its famous Reuben), cheeses, olive oils, smoked fish and more since 1982. Among other meat, fish and produce markets, you'll also find sit-down restaurants with cuisine ranging from vegan to Korean, plus a Sweetwaters coffee shop location.
If you are looking for an authentic Ann Arbor culinary experience, Kerrytown is the place to find it. Named after County Kerry in Ireland, the district was part of the original Ann Arbor village dating back to the mid-1800s. In the 1960s, developers added a central shopping and dining area to the eclectic neighborhood and called it Kerrytown Market & Shops. Much of the architectural character from decades past still remains; visitors can expect to find brick buildings and sidewalks, original exposed beams, converted 19th-century factories and more.
Kerrytown Market & Shops is home to some of the city's most beloved dining mainstays, including the Ann Arbor Farmers Market and Zingerman's Deli, a local institution that's served up premium deli sandwiches (including its famous Reuben), cheeses, olive oils, smoked fish and more since 1982. Among other meat, fish and produce markets, you'll also find sit-down restaurants with cuisine ranging from vegan to Korean, plus a Sweetwaters coffee shop location.
2 hours to Half Day
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
Opened in 1982 in a historic fire station, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is an interactive, family-friendly science center. It has attracted around 6 million visitors since its inception and aims to introduce children of all ages to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields of study. Favorite exhibits include the "H2Oh" water play area in the Concourse and the "Michigan Nature" experience, which features an interactive nature wall and geology samples. Recent travelers spoke highly of the museum, saying it has something for toddlers all the way up to preteens. They also noted that the facility was clean and well-maintained.
The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is open seven days a week, though opening hours vary by day. On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Tuesdays, the attraction opens up one hour earlier (9 a.m.), and on Thursdays, it stays open until 8 p.m. Sunday hours are noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free for toddlers 23 months and younger and $12.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Visitors who enter after 5 p.m. on Thursdays only pay $5 per person. To learn more, visit the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum's website .
Opened in 1982 in a historic fire station, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is an interactive, family-friendly science center. It has attracted around 6 million visitors since its inception and aims to introduce children of all ages to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields of study. Favorite exhibits include the "H2Oh" water play area in the Concourse and the "Michigan Nature" experience, which features an interactive nature wall and geology samples. Recent travelers spoke highly of the museum, saying it has something for toddlers all the way up to preteens. They also noted that the facility was clean and well-maintained.
The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is open seven days a week, though opening hours vary by day. On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Tuesdays, the attraction opens up one hour earlier (9 a.m.), and on Thursdays, it stays open until 8 p.m. Sunday hours are noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free for toddlers 23 months and younger and $12.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Visitors who enter after 5 p.m. on Thursdays only pay $5 per person. To learn more, visit the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum's website .
Half Day to Full Day
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
The Michigan Theater opened in 1928 as a combined vaudeville stage and movie house. It has undergone a few renovations over the years, and today offers audiences with three screening spaces to view films and live concerts. The Main Auditorium holds 1,600 people, the Screening Room has 200 seats and the Annex Cinema holds 60. The theater offers programming 365 days a year, and past visitors praised the old-timey feel of the theater, as well as the curated list of films and live acts. Still, not all patrons appreciated the retro space, noting that the seats were too tight for taller viewers and not as comfortable as the plush chairs in more modern theaters.
General admission tickets for films are $10.50 per person, while students, veterans, senior citizens and groups of 10 or more can secure tickets for $8.50. Matinee showings between Monday and Friday (before 6 p.m.) cost $7.50 per person. Ticket prices for live events vary, and parking is available in multiple nearby garages as well as on nearby streets. To learn more, visit the Michigan Theater's website . (And if you do decide to see a show, be sure to look out for one of Ann Arbor's famous fairy doors at this spot – and a miniature box office window, to boot.)
The Michigan Theater opened in 1928 as a combined vaudeville stage and movie house. It has undergone a few renovations over the years, and today offers audiences with three screening spaces to view films and live concerts. The Main Auditorium holds 1,600 people, the Screening Room has 200 seats and the Annex Cinema holds 60. The theater offers programming 365 days a year, and past visitors praised the old-timey feel of the theater, as well as the curated list of films and live acts. Still, not all patrons appreciated the retro space, noting that the seats were too tight for taller viewers and not as comfortable as the plush chairs in more modern theaters.
General admission tickets for films are $10.50 per person, while students, veterans, senior citizens and groups of 10 or more can secure tickets for $8.50. Matinee showings between Monday and Friday (before 6 p.m.) cost $7.50 per person. Ticket prices for live events vary, and parking is available in multiple nearby garages as well as on nearby streets. To learn more, visit the Michigan Theater's website . (And if you do decide to see a show, be sure to look out for one of Ann Arbor's famous fairy doors at this spot – and a miniature box office window, to boot.)
TIME TO SPEND
Read More
Located in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor, Nickels Arcade is a cozy but upscale covered shopping area with a rich history. The indoor-outdoor complex began as a meat market owned by the Nickels family. After Tom Nickels inherited the market in the early 1900s, he repurposed the shop and expanded the facility to resemble the shopping arcades found in Europe at the time. Nickels completed the block in 1918 and different kinds of shops began opening within the complex.
Today, Nickels Arcade – which celebrated its centennial in 2017 – boasts both vintage and modern-day stores along its mosaic-tiled alley. Visitors can stop into the old-timey barbershop, which dates back to 1917, and grab a drink at the modern juice bar or coffee shop in the same trip. Recent travelers remarked that the block is worth visiting for a short stroll, and many praised the quality merchandise available at several of the shops – including VanBoven Clothing, which has been operated within the same family since 1927.
Located in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor, Nickels Arcade is a cozy but upscale covered shopping area with a rich history. The indoor-outdoor complex began as a meat market owned by the Nickels family. After Tom Nickels inherited the market in the early 1900s, he repurposed the shop and expanded the facility to resemble the shopping arcades found in Europe at the time. Nickels completed the block in 1918 and different kinds of shops began opening within the complex.
Today, Nickels Arcade – which celebrated its centennial in 2017 – boasts both vintage and modern-day stores along its mosaic-tiled alley. Visitors can stop into the old-timey barbershop, which dates back to 1917, and grab a drink at the modern juice bar or coffee shop in the same trip. Recent travelers remarked that the block is worth visiting for a short stroll, and many praised the quality merchandise available at several of the shops – including VanBoven Clothing, which has been operated within the same family since 1927.

**9.** <https://mymichiganbeach.com/things-to-do-in-ann-arbor/>

30+ Unique Things to Do in Ann Arbor (2022)
Home » 30+ Unique Things to Do in Ann Arbor (2022)
Outdoors Ann Arbor
Top Things to Do in Ann Arbor
With so many fun things to do in Ann Arbor, MI, there’s a reason that a lot of graduates of the University of Michigan think twice about leaving Ann Arbor when they finish school!
After all, why leave a spot that regularly tops the lists of “best places to live in the United States?”
This quintessential college town in southeast Michigan has a lot to offer visitors in terms of culture, cuisine, shopping, and fun things to do all year around.
Whether you’re seeking family friendly activities , a romantic getaway or looking for a fun trip idea, Ann Arbor is a perfect destination.
Use this travel guide for travel tips and fun ideas for planning your next trip to Ann Arbor.
Read on to find our list of all the must-sees and must-do’s of our beloved Tree Town, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
Exploring Ann Arbor MI
Chances are good that when you picture a typical college town in north America, Ann Arbor comes to mind.
The sprawling UM campus, surrounded by tall, leafy trees, is the heart of this bustling city.
One of the top public universities in the world, the university draws visitors from around the world, many of whom stay in the area. This adds to the cultural diversity of the area, and brings a cosmopolitan feel to this small town.
Downtown Ann Arbor MI is home to a big food scene, with a vast collection of coffee shops, cafes and top-rated restaurants.
You’ll also find a unique store, the Michigan Theater for performing arts shows, museum and more.
The Huron River meanders through town, and you’ll find beautiful parks, hiking and biking trails and many opportunities to outdoor activities, too.
The best part?
It’s only about 40 minutes from Detroit, making it the perfect day trip destination for anyone living in southeast Michigan.
Whether you’re interested in visiting the University of Michigan campus, eclectic downtown shopping, or finding new biking trails , Ann Arbor has something for everyone.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor simply wouldn’t be the same without the Wolverines bringing the whole city together to rally behind them. With the University of Michigan planted firmly in the city center, university pride paints the town maize and blue.
There’s so much to do on the U of M campus, much of which is typically open to the public and well worth a visit. Here are some things you’ll want to see:
Yost Ice Arena
1116 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Not only are some great ice hockey games played here ( Go Wolverines!), but you can also lace up your own ice skates here, too. Yost Ice Arena hosts open public skating, too.
Michigan Stadium (the Big House)
1201 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Of course, we can’t talk about Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan without mentioning football. Michigan football is a huge deal throughout the state and in the Wolverine’s hometown, the passion is palpable.
There is absolutely nothing like seeing a game at “The Big House,” aptly nicknamed for its enormous size.
This largest college football stadium in the nation can hold over 100,000 fans, especially when U of M plays Michigan State or Ohio State.
Law Quadrangle
625 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
The garden-like law quad at the University of Michigan is a beautiful place to walk, or just sit and take in the serene surrounding.
This iconic square, with lawns & paved paths, is surrounded by grand neo-Gothic buildings housing the law school classrooms.
Hill Auditorium
825 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
You wanna talk acoustics? One of my favorite memories as a child (my father was a U-M grad) was going to see the University of Michigan Marching Band concerts at the Hill. It’s the largest performance hall in the area, and is known as one of the world’s great concert halls due to its unique design.
Designed by renown architect Albert Kahn ( who also designed the Belle Isle aquarium), the Hill is known for it’s perfect acoustics.
Some of the world’s top performers have graced the stage: if you’re lucky, you might catch a concert here!
Ann Arbor Museums
University of Michigan Museum of Art
525 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Ann Arbor is an eccentric and creative city that promotes diverse artists with emphasis on local creators.
The University of Michigan Museum of Art dedicates itself to showing wide varieties of art that spans cultures, eras, and mediums, making it one of the most varied art experiences in the city. In addition to attracting top exhibitions, their permanent collection is very well-regarded.
The American Art collection, which features artists ranging from Rauschenberg, Frankenthaler and Warhol to James McNeill Whistler and Alexander Calder – is very impressive.
The Decorative Arts collection (a favorite) features works from Frank Lloyd Wright, George Nelson, Frank Gehry and Charles and Ray Eames. Don’t miss it.
Museum of Natural History (Kid-Friendly)
Biological Sciences Building, 1105 N University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Operated by the University, this amazing museum has the largest collection of prehistoric life in Michigan, in addition to a wonderful planetarium that puts on amazing exhibits and light shows.
The museum has four major permanent exhibits, including the Hall of Evolution, which exhibits on evolution and prehistoric life, including fossils, models, and dioramas of dinosaurs, ancient whales, mastodons, and other organisms.
The Michigan Wildlife Gallery displays exhibits on birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, plants, and fungi native to the Great Lakes. The Anthropology Displays feature exhibits on anthropology, and include artifacts from human cultures around the world.
The Geology Displays on the fourth floor feature a collection of the several rocks and minerals. This is must on any visit to Ann Arbor.
Kelsey Museum of Archaeology 434 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
This fascinating museum offers both permanent and visiting displays. The vast collection features more than 100,000 ancient and medieval artifacts from the civilizations of the Mediterranean and the Near East.
Don’t miss the colorfully painted Egyptian mummy coffin or magical amulets from the ancient Near East.
Gerald Ford Presidential Library 1000 Beal Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
Located on north campus, The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library houses archival materials on the life of Gerald Ford, the 38th president of the United States.
Born in Grand Rapids, MI , not far from Lake Michigan, Ford became President of the United States following the resignation of Richard Nixon during the Watergate scandal.
While Grand Rapids is home to the Ford Museum, the Library was built on the grounds of Ford’s Beloved alma mater.
Matthei Botanical Gardens
Matthei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum
1800 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Although the Matthei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum are separate places, since their both owned and operated by the University of Michigan, they are often grouped together as one big nature exhibit.
At the Botanical Gardens, you’ll find a perennial garden, Gateway Garden, herb knot garden, and Great Lakes Gardens that features plants native to the Great Lakes region.
You’ll also find a 10,00 square-foot conservatory, where there is something blooming year-round, from rare orchids to cactuses.
At the Arboretum, you’ll find endless hiking trails. For nature lovers, this lovely space just outside the city center is a haven.
There is plenty of space to walk trails and observe and enjoy the variety of plant life while learning about the natural world and the importance of conservation of our planet’s plant life.
Creature Conservancy
4940 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
You’ll find over 80 species of mostly exotic animals, many of whom are rescued former pets, at this unique wildlife conservancy.
Conservancy residents include injured wild animals and abandoned exotic pets, including a bald eagle, a red kangaroo, sloths, reindeer, alligators, armadillos and others.
While you are welcome to visit the outside area free of charge (donations are encouraged), small private events and private tours are available by advance reservation only.
Domino’s Farms
3001 Earhart Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Children and adults alike share a love for animals, making the Domino’s Farms Petting Farm a popular tourist attraction for visitors to the area.
See a wide range of animals including chicken, goats, sheep, llamas, pigs, rabbits, ducks and more.
Here, you can get up-close and personal with animals while learning about the important role’s animals have in agriculture and larger ecosystems.
The animals are fantastic ambassadors and show us the importance of sustainable farming and the preservation of Michigan’s wildlife.
Leslie Science and Nature Center
1831 Traver Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
This amazing natural area is great family destination, with a wide range of activities focused on inspiring awe of the natural world.
You’ll find a natural space with trails, raptor enclosures, a critter house and public programs for all ages.
If you’re visiting for an extended time in the summer months, check out the kid’s day camps. The camps are a fun opportunity for your young one(s) to immerse themselves in nature.
Dexter Cider Mill
3685 Central St, Dexter, MI 48130
Located just outside of Ann Arbor, this is one of Michigan’s most popular cider mills.
Family-owned and operated since 1886, this top Michigan cider mill is located on the banks of the Huron River and offers fresh apple cider, baked good and many other yummy treats during Michigan’s beautiful fall season.
Hudson Mills Metropark
8801 N Territorial Rd, Dexter, MI 48130
This 1,500-acre Michigan metro park offers a great opportunity to outdoor recreation in a stunning setting.
You’ll find a tamarack swamp, open fields, deciduous forest, vernal and permanent ponds, and the Huron River.
There are picnic facilities, swings and slides, softball diamonds, hike/bike trails, a nature trail, fishing sites, and an activity center with disc golf , a tot lot, a baseball diamond, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and shuffleboard.
Ann Arbor Shopping
Kerrytown Market
407 N 5th Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Located in Ann Arbor’s historic Kerrytown District, Kerrytown Market & Shops features a wide selection of specialty markets, unique gift shops, including Mudpuddles Toys.
This fun toy shop has a wide range of unique toys for kids: it’s not your average toy store. It’s also home to Spun, a specialty yarn shop.
Nickels Arcade
326 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Stepping into Nickels Arcade is like stepping into a European-style galleria, with eclectic shops and cafes.
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, this 261-foot-long mosaic-tiled corridor, houses some of Ann Arbor’s oldest specialty retail shops.
You’ll find clothing and gift shops, a florist and more great spots to check out in a very unique setting.
Liberty Street
Liberty Street is in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor, and it’s here where you’ll feel the essence of city. Mixed in alongside landmarks such The Ark , where some of the best musical acts have performed, you’ll find a crazy collection unique stores.
Be sure and check out Ragstock, a hip outlet for new and used clothing; Elmo’s Liberty Street T-Shirts; Orchid Lane, which features women’s clothing and home décor items, and West Side Books, with a vast collection of used books.
West Wide Books has a diverse selection of books ranging from children’s literature to rare books in many fields, including an extensive collection of books about polar exploration, there is bound to be a gem for you hidden among the shelves.
Briarwood Mall
100 Briarwood Cir, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
This indoor shopping mall is home to the regulars (Macy’s and J.C. Penney) along with Von Maur, an upscale department store.
The Cherry Republic
223 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Traverse City is the Cherry Capital of the World, but that doesn’t mean you need to plan a several-day-long vacation to get access to Michigan cherries.
Ann Arbor has a Cherry Republic store downtown, bringing the sweet cherry treats from northern Michigan into the densely populated southeast Michigan.
From drinks like wine and soda, to candies and chocolate covered-cherries, Cherry Republic has all things Michigan cherries.
208 N 4th Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Encore Records Music lovers in Ann Arbor love Encore Records because their love for music is unmistakable.
At this popular record shop you can find all things music and media, including vinyl records, cassettes, CDs, and more.
With a massive collection spanning all genres imaginable, Encore Records shows an appreciation for music and media like no other.
They also purchase used items, if you’re looking to sell to a local shop that will treat your collection with respect.
Literati Bookstore
124 E Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Located in downtown Ann Arbor , this independent bookstore not only offers a great selection of books, it also hosts authors for books chats.
With a diverse selection of books ranging from children’s literature to the latest bestseller, there is bound to be a gem for you hidden among the shelves.
Kid-Friendly Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum (Kid-Friendly)
220 E Ann St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
This museum oozes fun right from the go: it’s set in a vintage red brick firehouse, which means lot of room for kids to run around, explore and play comfortably.
At the Hands-On Museum children learn about science and technology through interactive exhibits that inspire curiosity and exploration.
Additionally, they can develop interest for STEM industries and the natural world by seeing them in action.
Start with a lesson in economics from a 1930’s era country store, or experience the characteristics of light and optics by playing the stringless Laser Harp.
One of the most popular exhibits with the young audience is a look at how a toilet works… it’s actually kind of interesting for adults, too.
There’s a whole day’s worth of fun here, so plan accordingly but don’t miss it.
Kidopolis 509 State Cir, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
Kidopolis is the indoor playground in Ann Arbor that inspires creative play for children, even on rainy days.
Here the importance of imagination is highly regarded as the steppingstone to creative thinking in later years, so fostering the early childhood imagination is critical.
This family-friendly imagination station is open by appointment for private play, to help imaginations thrive while remaining safe.
Ann Arbor Festivals
Ann Arbor is home to many seasonal and annual events.
Many of these are related to the city’s love and passion for the arts and are designed to uplift and support local or up-and-coming artists in several mediums.
This appreciation for the arts is what gives Ann Arbor the eccentric atmosphere we all love and these seasonal events allow that creative aura to thrive.
Ann Arbor Film Festival
Each spring, the Ann Arbor Film Festival shines a light on bold filmmakers and celebrates the art of film.
This non-profit organization receives thousands of submissions from dozens of countries and showcases the best of the best.
Awards are presented each year for best picture, most promising filmmaker, as well as genre-specific awards.
This annual summer event takes place on the streets of Ann Arbor. Artists from all over the US, including Michigan based creators, set up vending tents along the streets where visitors can browse and purchase one-of-a-kind art pieces.
Ann Arbor Farmers Market
One of the most eclectic farmers markets here, you’ll you’ll find a mix of fresh produce and flowers to handmade goods, prepared foods and artisan items. One of my favorite pairs of socks made from alpaca wool, was purchased here years ago…and they’re still like-new!
The farmer’s market is held year-round, Wednesdays and Saturdays near Kerrytown.
Summer Festival
Whether you’re into photography, paintings, woodwork, ceramics, or something else, there will be an artist here that has exactly what you like.
The Summer Festival in Ann Arbor is massive and aims to enrich the community culture through demonstration, performance, and art.
Live music, films, demonstrations, and interactive activities mark this festival throughout the city.
This enormous event draws people into Ann Arbor to enjoy the arts and experience community coming together to appreciate them.
Ann Arbor Restaurants
A day in Ann Arbor isn’t complete without trying out a new restaurant, pub, or brewery in town.
Ann Arbor has everything, from breakfast bistros to late-night cravings. The diverse and high-quality restaurant selection in Ann Arbor might leave you wondering where to go, so here are a few of our favorite places and activities related to food and drinks.
Krazy Jim’s Blimpy Burger
Featured on the television show “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives,” hosted by Guy Fieri on the Food Network Channel, this quirky restaurant serves up some tasty burgers.
Get in the cafeteria line and start building your own burger, with any type of additions or condiments you can imagine.
The fun part is watching as your burger is prepared right before your eyes, giving you even more time to work up an appetite.
Zingerman’s Delicatessen
422 Detroit St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Everyone in Ann Arbor knows Zingerman’s Deli for their famous mac and cheese and crazy sandwiches, but there is so much more to discover.
Zingerman’s is a whole community of businesses providing all kinds of food, including sandwiches, bread, coffee, candy and more.
Zingerman’s Bakehouse, is known for their spectacular cakes, cookies, and breads, but they also offers soups and sandwiches at this cozy location near Briarwood Mall.
Sign up for Zingerman’s Bakehouse classes and learn some trade secrets to making great-tasting pies, pastries and more.
The Earle
121 W Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
For something with a more upscale feel without sacrificing a cozy environment, The Earle is a great spot.
The combination of its underground location, classic French-Italian food, extensive wine list, and regular live jazz music creates a speakeasy kind of atmosphere that exudes that fine dining aura.
Consider this perfect Ann Arbor date-night dining.
Angelo’s
1100 Catherine St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Angelo’s has been an Ann Arbor breakfast staple for well over half a century.
A full breakfast from Angelo’s, including raisin toast, fresh eggs, crispy bacon, and hot coffee would be the perfect start to any day, so it’s no wonder lines are long to get that perfect morning meal.
Isalita
341 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
This Liberty Street favorite serves up Mexican standards served in a rustic space with painted-brick walls & a festive streetside patio.
Ann Arbor Breweries
Like any college town, the breweries are plentiful in Tree Town. Lots of high-quality Michigan craft beers are brewed in Ann Arbor, including Wolverine State Brewing Co., HOMES Brewery, Bløm Meadworks, plus so many more.
All of these breweries are fantastic, so if you can’t decide on one place for your birthday or bachelor/bachelorette party, consider a pedal trolley beer tour so you can try numerous Ann Arbor breweries safely while pedaling a trolley through the streets of Ann Arbor.
Outdoors Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor isn’t all cityscapes and downtown shopping. There are plenty of bicycle lanes in town for a city bike ride and the downtown area certainly is very walkable.
However, there is still so much to do in the nature surrounding Ann Arbor, including canoeing, kayaking, and biking.
Argo Park
Canoeing & Kayaking on the picturesque Huron River is one of the most popular activities at Argo Park.
The Huron River flows straight through Ann Arbor and taking a kayak or canoe out on the water is a popular activity, particularly in the warm months.
Argo Park in the northwest and Gallup Park in the east both offer canoe and kayak rentals. Glide on the water through miles of natural river coastline nestled in the middle of bustling Ann Arbor.
Border to Border Biking Trails
Using a bicycle in the city is great for transportation.
However, if you’re looking for a more natural landscape, or even off-road biking, there are lots of parks in the surrounding areas that make great biking locations.
The Border-to-Border Trail has over 40 miles of non-motorized pathways for long-distance biking (or running).
Olson Park
If you’re more into off-road or mountain biking, Olson Park in northern Ann Arbor is perfect for you, with rugged trails to bike or hike. There are also a handful of amenities here, including a pod, dog run, sport courts, and a playground.
These are only some of the top things to do in Ann Arbor. There are amazing public libraries, parks and more to visit. It’s a perfect spot for weekend getaways or road trips.
About the Author
Bella DiMascio is a Content Editor at mymichiganbeach.com. She grew up in the Detroit suburb of Westland and later attended Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo where she majored in Communication Studies and minored in English: Writing. Creative writing has been a hobby and interest of Bella’s since she was in elementary school and she is thrilled to be using her talents to highlight the Great Lakes State. Outside of writing, Bella enjoys getting outside with her two Australian Shepherds, playing video games, and binging shows on Netflix.
You Might Also Enjoy…
SHARE US~
We love spreading the word about the beauty of Michigan and the many Michigan activities throughout the year. Please use the buttons below to share this post with others.

**10.** <https://www.planetware.com/michigan/top-rated-things-to-do-in-ann-arbor-us-mi-94.htm>

10 Top-Rated Things to Do in Ann Arbor, MI
We may earn a commission from affiliate links (
)
The charming college town of Ann Arbor, an exurb of Detroit, offers big-city amenities with a small-town vibe. With a young, sophisticated, and diverse population, the home of the University of Michigan (U-M) has a thriving cultural and culinary scene, with top-notch museums and a resurgence of farm-to-table dining. Known as Tree Town for its 50,000 trees lining the streets, this gem in the heart of America is easily accessible from major cities.
There's something for everyone in this Michigan city. Take a stroll down the bustling Main Street, grab a sandwich at the famous Zingerman's Deli, enjoy fragrant peonies at the Arboretum, go kayaking, or catch live music.
Discover more places to visit on your next Midwestern getaway with our list of the top things to do in Ann Arbor.
1. The Big House
The Big House | Photo Copyright: Destination Ann Arbor
The University of Michigan Stadium, nicknamed "The Big House," is the biggest football stadium in the United States and the second largest in the world. Built in 1927, the iconic stadium literally takes your breath away, especially when it's filled to the brim with more than 100,000 people on a fall weekend, all wearing the maize and blue of the Wolverines. The Big House's largest attendance record of 115,109 attendees happened on September 7, 2013 during Michigan's victory over Notre Dame.
Seeing a game here is one of the most popular things to do in the city. Tickets are nearly impossible to get, as every game is sold out months in advance, but you can contact the University of Michigan Ticket Office to try to secure tickets.
The stadium has also hosted other sporting events, including the International Champions Cup soccer tournament and National Hockey League's 2014 Winter Classic. The venue is also home to the university's spring commencement, special events, and movie nights in the summer. Athletes and fans looking to get married at The Big House can have a uniquely Michigan experience at the stadium.
For those simply wanting to visit the stadium, The Big House offers tours of the field, locker room, and the press box.
2. Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
Kelsey Museum of Archaeology | Photo Copyright: Lavanya Sunkara
The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, operated by the University of Michigan, has been a research museum since 1928, housing a collection of more than 100,000 objects from Ancient Greece to Mesopotamia.
This world-class museum showcases approximately 1,500 artifacts on permanent display, along with spices preserved from 2,000 years ago, amulets from the Near East, pottery, Greek and Roman sculptures, and a watercolor reproduction of the Villa of the Mysteries murals from Pompeii by Maria Barosso.
The elaborately decorated sarcophagus of Egyptian priest Djehutymose from around 625-580 BC, one the museum's central exhibit, even has its own Twitter account, offering tips on how to have the best afterlife.
3. Willow Bomber Run & Yankee Air Museum
Willow Run B-25 Bomber Jet | Photo Copyright: Lavanya Sunkara
Just outside of Ann Arbor in Ypsilanti is the Willow Run Bomber Plant, where Ford Motor Company built 8,685 B-24 Liberator bombers during WWII, ultimately helping America secure victory.
The nearby volunteer-run Yankee Air Museum, with a tagline "where history takes flight," has a vast collection of aircraft ranging from WWI to the Vietnam era. It offers flight enthusiasts a chance to go on historic planes such as the B-17 Yankee Lady, B-25 bomber jets, the C-47 Hairless Joe Skytrain, the UH-1 Huey, and the Ford Tri-Motor. Take a thrilling ride during the months of May to October to get a bird's-eye view of the iconic Big House and downtown Ann Arbor.
The museum also gives importance to the war labor women performed in factories, including an inspiring exhibit on the famed Rosie the Riveter, who worked at the plant and inspired females to join the workforce.
4. Gerald Ford Presidential Library
Gerald Ford Presidential Library | Photo Copyright: Lavanya Sunkara
History buffs will enjoy a visit to this small, but informative library of the 38th President of the United States, Gerald Ford. Located on the North Campus of the University of Michigan (although non-affiliated), this annex was built at his alma mater and is separate from the museum and birthplace in his hometown of Grand Rapids.
Along with a replica of his Oval Office, the library has a collection of more than 20 million archival pages, audio, and visual material from his presidency between 1974-77, on issues such as domestic and foreign affairs during the Cold War era. One of the exhibits covers the Watergate case, from the burglary in 1972 to Ford's controversial pardon of Nixon.
5. Nichols Arboretum and Matthaei Botanical Gardens
Peony Garden at Nichols Arboretum | Photo Copyright: Lavanya Sunkara
Operated by the University of Michigan, the Nichols Arboretum, known as "The Arb" sits on 123 acres bordering the Huron River on the east side of Ann Arbor. It features native and exotic trees and shrubs, and the famed Peony Garden. Visitors flock to the peony beds every spring to take in the beauty of colorful, sweet-smelling flowers that have been blooming for more than 100 years. The Arb offers nearly 3.5 miles of trails through important areas of the arboretum.
The nearby dog-friendly Matthaei Botanical Gardens' Conservatory, designed by Michigan architect Alden B. Dow, features three houses with tropical, temperate, and arid plants. The temperate collection includes an impressive bonsai and penjing (Chinese) tree collection. The student-run university's campus garden grows leafy greens and other produce to feed the student body. Visitors to the botanical gardens can meander on trails winding past beautiful natural features. Keep in mind that the nature trails are not dog-friendly.
6. Zingerman's Deli
Zingerman's Deli | Photo Copyright: Lavanya Sunkara
No trip to Ann Arbor is complete without tasting the delicious sandwiches of the legendary Zingerman's Deli. This iconic delicatessen, which once served President Obama, sells a variety of mouthwatering sandwiches along with cheeses and specialty foods, sourced from local ingredients.
Started in 1982 by Paul Saginaw and Ari Weinzweig, this small deli located on a triangular lot near downtown has consistently ranked among the world's best sandwich joints. In the past three decades, it has expanded to other food related businesses, including the Roadhouse restaurant; Bakeshop; Coffee Company; and Creamery, selling cheese and gelato.
When college is in session, the lines are long, but the food is worth the wait. Though the sides change with the season, the perennial favorite is the award-winning mac and cheese.
The Ark | Photo Copyright: Destination Ann Arbor
With live music 300 nights a year, The Ark is among the most popular music venues in the country and one of the top tourist attractions in Ann Arbor. This 400-seat theater, located in historic downtown, features artists in a number of genres, ranging from folk to country.
In 2015, the fabled spot celebrated its 50th anniversary. It all began when four local churches decided to fund a community space for college students, and it gradually became a place for folk musicians to share their talent.
Today, the Ark remains one of Michigan's busiest music venues, attracting famous singer/songwriters including Ani DiFranco, the Dixie Chicks, Norah Jones, and Don McLean, as well as musicians who are just starting out.
The Ann Arbor Folk Music Festival, held every January at the University of Michigan's Hill Auditorium, raises funds for The Ark.
8. Kerrytown
Fustini's Oils & Vinegars | Photo Copyright: Lavanya Sunkara
Blocks away from downtown Ann Arbor is the lovely neighborhood of Kerrytown, which serves as the location for the twice-weekly farmer's market (Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7am to 3pm) and a collection of one-of-a-kind stores.
At the Kerrytown Market & Shops, you can easily spend an entire day browsing and enjoying tastings. At Fustini's, get a taste of olive oil and vinegars from around the world or take a cooking lesson. Have a sampling of exotic herbs, teas, and spices at Ann Arbor Spice Merchants.
Bring your kids to the nearby Hands On Museum, a space for children to have interactive, educational fun.
9. The Huron River
Kayaking the Huron River | Photo Copyright: Destination Ann Arbor
If you are looking for things to do in summer, the picturesque Huron River running through Ann Arbor is perfect for canoeing or kayaking. Bring your own boat, or rent from the Argo and Gallup Park Liveries, open from May to early September. If tubing is more your style, the best stretch of the river is between the Argo Cascades and the Arboretum.
The River also has some of the best bass and carp fishing in Michigan, for those interested in fly fishing. In the neighboring town of Ypsilanti, Schultz Outfitters offers fly-casting instruction and guided trips on the Huron and Flint Rivers.
10. University of Michigan Museum of Art
University of Michigan Museum of Art | VasenkaPhotography / photo modified
The University of Michigan Museum of Art boasts the oldest university museum collection in the country. Located on campus, the art museum houses 20,000 works, from Europe and Asia through the ages, collected over a period of 150 years.
It also exhibits American art and African sculpture. Highlights include works by Pablo Picasso, Frank Kline, Claude Monet, and James McNeill Whistler, among others. The museum also has an outstanding outdoor sculpture collection, by artists such as Richard Hunt and Mark di Suvero.
Where to Stay in Ann Arbor for Sightseeing
Luxury & Mid-Range Hotels:
Ann Arbor doesn't have any 5-star resorts, but it has a number of mid-range properties, including lovely boutique properties and small inns and bed and breakfasts.
The only 4-star hotel in town is Graduate Ann Arbor
. The hotel is located just across the street from the University of Michigan campus and within walking distance of Nickels Arcade. Rooms and suites are charming and pay homage to the college. The public spaces are equally inviting and make use of repurposed library furnishings and commissioned murals to add flair. The hotel is pet friendly. Amenities include a workout room, electric vehicle charging station, and loaner bicycles.
Also check out Red Roof PLUS+ Ann Arbor - U of Michigan North
for a good-value sleep. The 2-star hotel has modern rooms, with bright colors and amenities like microwaves. The hotel is pet friendly and also offers a free shuttle service to the hospital if you are visiting for treatments. Other amenities include an outdoor fire pit, free breakfast, and free parking plus a kids-stay-free program.
More Related Articles on PlanetWare.com
Exploring Michigan: In summer, head to the best beaches in Michigan , and in winter, hit the slopes with our guide to the top ski resorts in Michigan . Any time of year, enjoy a weekend escape or a relaxing holiday at some of the best resorts in Michigan .
Subscribe to our Newsletter
Discover destinations, find outdoor adventures, follow the journeys of our travel writers around the world, and be inspired.
More on Michigan