

# GO GREAT LAKES BAY GUIDE

## Explore the Spring Season

when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan

**FLIP** to explore  
in summer



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**Spring**  
Top Things to Do

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**Spring**  
Top Festivals + Events



Hold out your left hand. See where the thumb meets the rest of the hand? That's where you'll be when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan. And with six unique cities to discover — Bay City, Birch Run, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Midland, and Saginaw — you'll find endless ways to explore this spring.

Rise above it all on America's longest treetop canopy walk and stroll botanical gardens in full bloom. Spend a day unearthing unique antiques & artisan-crafted finds, or bask in the warm European charm of Michigan's Little Bavaria.

Whether you'll savor one of six inviting cities or wash away your cares on calm waters...

**It's time to Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan**

**GoGreat.com**

## START EXPLORING

# Find Fresh Spring Adventures

Planning to Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan this spring — but need tips on what to see, do, taste, and experience? You've found yourself on the right side of this guide!

Whether you'll set your sights on vibrant hues with a self-guided gardens tour — or uncover one-of-a-kind treasures inside boutiques & antique shops — use the page numbers below to skip straight into exploring spring's best.

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Looking for summer trip ideas instead? Flip this guide over to the other cover!



Scan the QR codes throughout this guide to explore more on GoGreat.com





Dow Gardens – Midland, MI



## Top Spring Things to Do

*Flowers are blooming, birds are chirping, it's nothing but blue skies – spring has arrived! It's the season of outside adventures & weekend getaways filled with fresh air & plenty of sunshine.*

*Whether you take in a ball game or a guided boat tour, hike new trails or taste fresh cocktails, discover the best of all that spring brings when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan!*

### Outdoors + Nature



Find yourself amidst 22,000+ flowering bulbs at Dow Gardens! Discover natural splendor, award-winning gardens, and a canopy walk that stretches up to four stories high in the trees!

Spend the day catching big ones on Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay with the pros from a local walleye fishing charter – or captain your own adventure!

Challenge yourself on an aerial obstacle course of ziplines, ladders, and rope bridges at Frankenmuth Aerial Park.

Venture out to Chippewa Nature Center! With 19 miles of trails, join a Spring Wildflower Walk.

Relax along the shoreline at Bay City State Park and explore Tobico Marsh – a coastal wetland with observation towers.

Get some fresh air along the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail, and look to local Ray's Bike Shop or Nor'East Outdoors to rent your ride.

Bring your binoculars to the Saginaw Bay Birding Trail, a natural habitat for 200+ species of birds.

Paddle along calm waters with Frankenmuth Kayak Adventures, Ike's Mobile Kayak Rentals, Nor'East Outdoors, or Cattail Kayak Rental.

Grab some peanuts & Cracker Jack and watch the Great Lakes Loons Minor League Baseball team at bat!

Tee off at two of Michigan's must-play public golf courses, Apple Mountain and The Fortress, or your choice from over a dozen others!



Kayaking on the Saginaw River – Bay City, MI





Fantasy Carriage Company  
Frankenmuth, MI

Bavarian Belle Riverboat  
Frankenmuth, MI



Alden B. Dow Home and Studio – Midland, MI



Sunrise Pedal Trolley  
Bay City, MI

## Tours + Experiences



Reserve a guided boating ecotour through the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge with Johnny Panther Quests Adventure Trips.

Hop on with Golden Ticket Trolley Tours and immerse yourself in Frankenmuth on a narrated ride led by a local guide.

Enjoy the spring scenery on a horse-drawn carriage ride with Frankenmuth Carriage Company or Fantasy Carriage Company.

Book the PedAle Trolley to ride a 16-person bike through Frankenmuth — or purchase single seats on a pedal-powered pub crawl!

Bike through Bay City when you reserve the Sunrise Pedal Trolley. Bring your own beverages & coast into great times!

Beginning in May, board the Bavarian Belle Riverboat or Frankenmuth FunShips to discover gorgeous scenery along the Cass River.



From a sprawling botanical oasis to serene Japanese gardens, find floral beauty along our **self-guided Gardens Tour**.

Go on a culinary journey with Flavors of Frankenmuth Food Tours and be guided by seasoned experts to iconic eateries — and hidden gems!

Tour the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio, an oasis of mid-century modern architecture, then find 400+ other structures with the Mid-Century Modern Midland mobile app.

See historic buildings & homes along the self-guided Center Avenue Historic District Walking Tour of Bay City.



Beer, Wine + Spirits



Enjoy outdoor seating and scenic Cass River views at Frankenmuth Brewery, Michigan's oldest microbrewery.

Order the rotating IPA at Oracle Brewing Company, a laid-back space with inventive artisan brews.

Toast to Michigan history at Midland Brewing Company, and try spring's seasonal Three Mile Marker Hefeweizen!

Taste wood-fired craft brews at The Maple Grille Restaurant & Microbrewery — and farm-to-table fare, scratch-cooked over fire.

Sip on suds that pay local tribute at Tri-City Brewing Company and be ready for rotating food trucks!

Enjoy your brew — craft beer or coffee — with baked goods at MI Element Grains & Grounds.

Grab a wood-fired pie & a pint — from Blood Orange Wheat to Lumberjack Brown — at W.H. Ales Brewpub.

Experience a guided, six-pour wine tasting at award-winning St. Julian Winery.

Slip inside the coziest space (and find a seat by the fire) to enjoy pours of natural wine & wine-forward cocktails at Neighbors.

Gather at Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie to discover six tap wines — or select from wine cocktails & house specialty drinks.

Cozy in at Crazy Vines Winery to enjoy wines, ciders, and charcuterie in a comforting, rustic space.

With brews & wines to hard seltzers, sip something new at Loggers Brewing Company and sample from food trucks that regularly park & serve.

Indulge inside Frankenmuth FunShips, where you'll sample wines paired with handmade chocolates.

Mix it up at Modern Craft Winery — mixing wines together, with lemonade, or even cream soda!

For a distillery, brewery, and winery in one, look to Three Bridges Distillery & Taproom. Try the frothy Blue Jasmine Fizz or a pint of Hazy IPA!

Sip handcrafted cocktails at Old Town Distillery to sample vodka, rum, whiskey, and Moonshine, distilled on-site.

Taste thoughtfully crafted artisan cocktails inside The Public House — and light bites from Pickled Deviled Eggs to Parm Fries.

Step into EverNorth Spirits Co. to taste true, community-driven whiskeys, brought to your glass by the Bourbon Junkies.

Sample signature cocktails, smoked table-side, at Beaver's Pub, a cozy whiskey bourbon bar.



The Public House – Bay City, MI



Loggers Brewing Company – Saginaw, MI

Frankenmuth FunShips Tasting & Tours – Frankenmuth, MI



Three Bridges Distillery & Taproom – Midland, MI



Midland Brewing Company – Midland, MI







### Live Entertainment + Nightlife



Catch a concert, comedy show, or other performance at Midland Center for the Arts, The Temple Theatre, The Dow Event Center, Bay City State Theatre — or the outdoor Jolt Credit Union Event Park.

Bowl for strikes at Stardust — then enjoy escape rooms, axe-throwing, and The Taproom with 41 draft craft brews!

Work together at Great Lakes Escape Game or Code Breakers Escape & Puzzle Rooms to see if you can solve cryptic clues & get out!

Enjoy an evening of immersive experiences at 906 Lapeer, with escape rooms, axe-throwing, indoor GellyBall, and a professional haunted house.

Step back in time at Crazy Quarters Arcade into Pac-Man, Galaga, and more — and test your skills on dozens of pinball machines.

Stretch your fun late-night at Brinstar! Play pinball & arcade games, and sample from 12 beers on tap.

Crazy Quarters Arcade — Bay City, MI

The Temple Theatre — Saginaw, MI



Jolt Credit Union Event Park — Saginaw, MI







Frankenmuth River Place Shops  
Frankenmuth, MI

Downtown Shopping  
Frankenmuth, MI



Serendipity Road  
Midland, MI

### Shopping



Find clothing boutiques to fudge shops, partake in wine tastings to spa treatments, and enjoy the spring florals & Bavarian architecture at Frankenmuth River Place Shops.

Score huge finds (and save big) on a trip to Birch Run Premium Outlets, with 100+ designer & name-brand stores.

Celebrate spring through six sprawling shops, each housed in a historic farm building, at Pride and Country Village.

Stroll along winding cobblestone through a fairytale castle to seven unique shops inside the Bavarian Inn Castle Shops.

Enjoy the indoor, European-style SVRC Marketplace, and sample from unique & ethnic eateries as you browse yarn & beads to beauty products.

Experience the world's largest Christmas store, Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland, where it's merriment & joy, 361 days a year!

Find the perfect gift (or treat yourself to something unique) from handcrafted & artisan goods at Serendipity Road, Creative Lane, or Amazin' Mitten.

Browse clothing to gifts, home décor to house plants at lifestyle boutiques including My Secret Garden and Botanica Modern Market.

Shop home décor, garden, and gifts inside inviting shops like Violets Blue, Little House, and Warmbier Farms.

Try on the latest fashions & accessories at Ferne Boutique, Omoni Boutique, Fran & Dot Boutique, and Prim Sage Boutique, to name a few.

Discover fashions, accessories, and apothecary items at spots like Adorn Boutique, Rapunzel's Boutique, White House Boutique, Ellie & Isabelle, Sassy & Chic Boutique, or Margos & Co.

Shop 270+ specialty cheeses inside Frankenmuth Cheese Haus or savor small-batch cheeses from around the world at Artigiano Artisan Cheese Shoppe.

Take home the perfect souvenir from one-of-a-kind finds at Frank's Muth, The Michigan Shoppe, and more.

Gear up for outdoor spring adventures at Little Forks Outfitters, Frank's Great Outdoors, Saginaw Bay Trading Company, or Northwoods Wholesale Outlet.



Antiquing



Discover Michigan's largest antique mall, Bay City Antiques Center/Bay Antique Center, with 400+ booths housed in a historic building.

Join friends for a bite to eat at the cafe before perusing 70 antique vendors & six specialty shops at the Antique Warehouse.

Stroll down memory lane at Freeland Antique Mall, with 90+ booth spaces stocked with antiques & vintage goods.

Take a trip through Americana Company Antiques and find an eclectic mix of local memorabilia & unique antiquities.

Browse thoughtfully restored pieces of mid-century modern furniture at Retro Attics Studio, open Saturdays only.

Explore a marketplace of vintage, shabby chic, antique, industrial, and mid-century modern at The Iron Gate Emporium.

Find vintage galore from 60+ vendors at Around the Farm Antiques — and shop interesting garden decor.

Go on a thrilling hunt through Thrifty Treasures Antiques & More as you shop jewelry to glassware and primitives.

Step into a vintage goldmine of furniture, clothing, and quirky collectibles at Sister's Vin-Tiques.

Be transported to a bygone era at Flash Back Vintage, a must-visit for retro clothing & decor.

Find a cherished piece of the past at Michiganders Antiques and Collectibles, from furniture to memorabilia.

Have fun browsing a historic building at Court Street Antiques, a vintage, antique, and upcycle shop where nothing is newer than 1970!

Discover unusual items & estate finds at Adomaitis Antiques, from quality costumes to vintage clothing pieces.

Get lost in yesteryear inside The Antique Center, where memorabilia, collectibles, and antiques await.

Stroll through the music of then & now at Electric Kitsch! Find new & used records — and the equipment to play them on!



Americana Company Antiques – Bay City, MI

Downtown Bay City Antique Shopping – Bay City, MI



## Arts + Culture



Tour the traditional tea house at the Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens of Saginaw, and stroll three acres of serene Japanese gardens.

Explore gorgeous, Italianate gardens after touring permanent & traveling exhibitions at the Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens.

Browse the gallery at Studio 23/The Arts Center and choose an art project from the Craft Bar!

Visit the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum — and its outdoor Sculpture Garden for beautiful bronze sculptures, botanical beds, and fountains.

Find handcrafted pottery ready for painting at Painterly Pottery and Space Studios — or turn raw wood into a work of art at Board & Brush Creative Studio.

Discover the Great Lakes Bay Region Public Art Passport and map your route to see public art!

Painterly Pottery – Bay City, MI



Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum – Saginaw, MI



Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens of Saginaw – Saginaw, MI

## History + Museums



Explore the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum aboard a National Historic Landmark, the U.S.S. Edson!

Venture through the Michigan Heroes Museum, the only of its kind in the country, featuring displays of Michigan veterans.

Experience the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, a three-story gem tucked inside a French chateau-style castle.

Reserve your tour of the Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation's Autism History Museum to celebrate neurodiversity as you explore the history of autism.





## Top Spring Things to Do With Kids

*Lace up your sneakers & grab snacks for the kids — spring has arrived! Now is the time for fresh-air adventures & family fun!*

*Squeal with delight while zooming through treetops at an unforgettable aerial park. Take in a ball game, travel the zoo, or even tap maple trees together. When the kiddos are ready for easy-breezy fun, discover the best of what spring brings when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan as a family!*

### Arts + Entertainment

See which kid-friendly shows are in town at Midland Center for the Arts, The Dow Event Center, The Temple Theatre, or Bay City State Theatre.

Work on a piece together at Painterly Pottery or Space Studios, both with handcrafted pottery ready for your family to personalize.

Choose a family art project from the Craft Bar inside Studio 23/The Arts Center — instructions & supplies are provided!

### Museums + More

Crawl into a larger-than-life mouth, experiment at the Tinker Track — Mid-Michigan Children's Museum is filled with hands-on, interactive galleries!

Catch a show that's out of this world at Delta College Planetarium — and climb to the rooftop observation deck for a bird's-eye view of Bay City.

Open in May, see big smiles at the Antique Toy and Firehouse Museum — and the world's largest collection of motorized fire trucks!



Mid-Michigan Children's Museum — Saginaw, MI

### Indoor Family Fun Zones

Hit the bowling lanes at Stardust, crash into fun with bumper cars, play arcade games, and take on laser tag!

Step back in time at Crazy Quarters Arcade and discover dozens of classic arcade games & pinball machines.

Let them fly at Urban Air Adventure Park, with giant trampolines, climbing walls, an indoor zipline, laser tag, and bumper cars!

Enjoy bowling, indoor mini-golf, an arcade, bumper cars, laser maze, and escape rooms at Valley Lanes.

Play pinball & arcade games as a family at Brinstar — then bite into tasty burgers & fresh-cut fries.

Jump into Airborne Adventure Park where the whole family can fly through the air on wall-to-wall trampolines.

Find your way through thousands of mirrors inside the Ultimate Mirror Maze — and try The Vault Laser Beam Challenge.

Stop by the River Place Game Room for 40+ arcade games and the chance to earn cool prizes!

Let the little ones burn off energy inside The Playground, a fun playscape for kids — with perfectly poured lattes for parents.

### Indoor Waterparks

Make forever memories at Michigan's biggest indoor waterpark & family fun center — Bavarian Blast at Bavarian Inn Lodge! Try 16 new waterslides, a wave pool, mini-golf & mini-bowling, a ropes course, and 170+ arcade games.

Dive into Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel & Waterpark, with a six-story Family Raft Ride, four-story tube slides, an arcade, and poolside dining options!



Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel & Waterpark — Frankenmuth, MI



## Outdoors + Nature

See 22,000+ blooms at Dow Gardens! Visit the Children's Garden and explore a canopy walk through the trees — with a glass-floor viewing platform four stories high!

Team up as a family and swing through the trees on ziplines, ladders, and rope bridges at Frankenmuth Aerial Park.

Make sweet memories at Chippewa Nature Center! See syrup made at the Sugarhouse, or tour the Sugarbush at Tap-A-Tree outings.

Spend a day on the shoreline at Bay City State Park. Pack a picnic, enjoy the play area, and climb the observation towers in Tobico Marsh!

Hop onto the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail — and look to Ray's Bike Shop or Nor'East Outdoors to rent rides for your family.

## Zoos + Farms

Pet Rosie The Donkey & hold Mr. Nibbles at Grandpa Tiny's Heritage Farm, a working farm filled with hands-on experiences.

Meet 150+ animals, then ride the hand-carved carousel & miniature train at the Saginaw Children's Zoo!

Discover the Reptile Sanctuary & Rainforest Experience and get acquainted with 200 exotic animals at Wilderness Trails Zoo.

## Outdoor Mini-Golf + More

With mini-golf, bumper boats, go-karts, laser tag, and arcade games, spring into good times at Fun Way Amusement Park!

Golf around a rushing waterfall during mini-golf at Dutch Village Adventure Park, then hit the batting cages.

Putt-putt your way through 18 holes overlooking a marina at Buoy 18, enjoy the game room for free, and grab some ice cream!

Pick between two mini-golf courses at Alpine Mountain, or play both! With bumper boats & go-karts, too, enjoy your time together.

Have a ball at a Great Lakes Loons Minor League Baseball game — and snap a family photo with mascot Lou E. Loon!

## Kids' Shopping

Find fun souvenirs, hit the arcade, and sample fresh fudge at Frankenmuth River Place Shops.

Browse toys, candy, and souvenirs at Bavarian Inn Castle Shops — and let the kids pick treats from the bakery.

With Go! Games & Toys for kids to Pottery Barn Outlet for parents, discover 100+ stores at Birch Run Premium Outlets.

Shop for wooden toys & puzzles (or a new spring kite) at Toyberg, or explore "a toy store, unplugged" at Joyful Tantrum.

Feel joy & magic any time of year at the world's largest Christmas store, Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland!

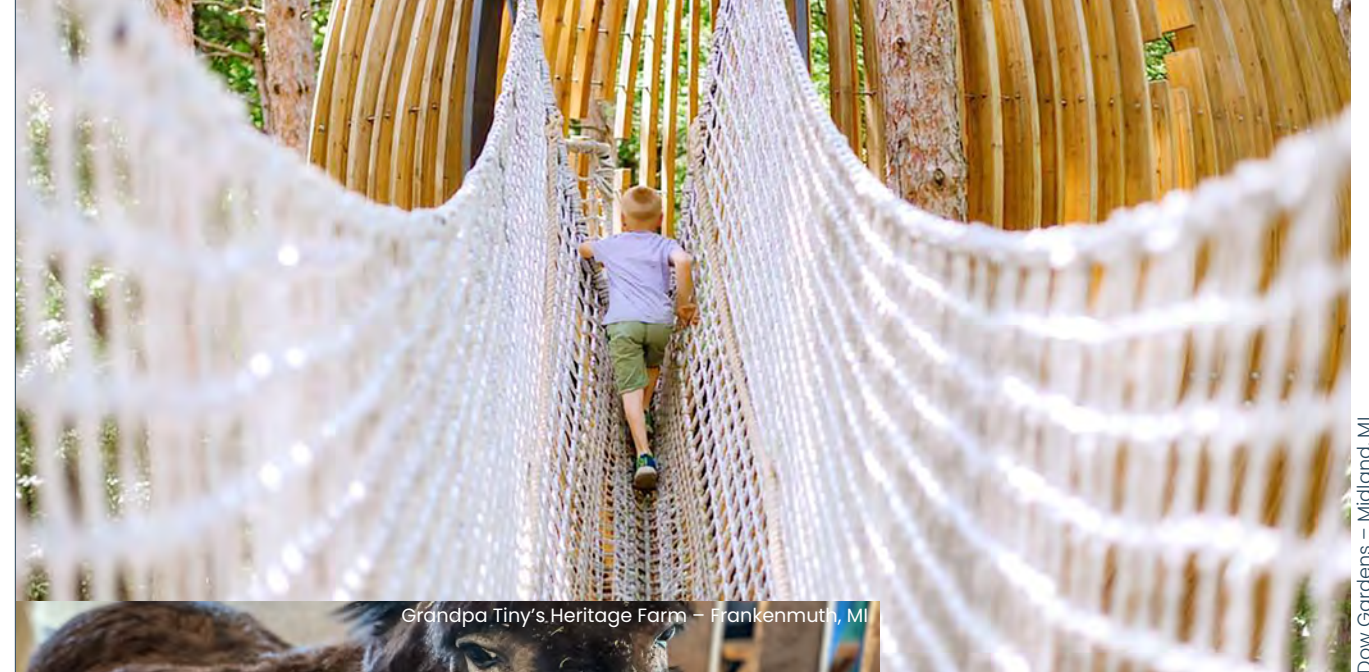
## Tours + Experiences

Climb in for a horse-drawn carriage ride with Fantasy Carriage Company or Frankenmuth Carriage Company. (Ask first, but kids can usually pet the horses!)

All aboard "Lucy," the bright-red trolley! Join Golden Ticket Trolley Tours for a memorable Family Ride through Frankenmuth, complete with a kids' playlist.



Saginaw Children's Zoo — Saginaw, MI



Dow Gardens — Midland, MI



Grandpa Tiny's Heritage Farm — Frankenmuth, MI

## Kid-Friendly Spring Festivals

Enjoy a heaping helping of family fun at Funtown Chowdown Food Truck Festival or see thousands of brilliantly colored butterflies during Butterflies in Bloom at Dow Gardens!



Bavarian Inn Castle Shops — Frankenmuth, MI



# TOP SPRING FESTIVALS + EVENTS



Butterflies in Bloom  
Dow Gardens  
Midland, MI

Whether fresh pop-up shops & artisan markets are calling your name or tasty street fare & food trucks are luring you to go — or you just want to celebrate at one of the largest beer tasting events in all of Michigan — spring festivals & can't-miss events are right around the corner!

Here's where to be for festival fun when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan this spring →

Find our full calendar of festivals + events at  
[GoGreat.com/Events](https://GOGreat.com/Events)



## March



### Butterflies in Bloom (Mar – Apr)

See thousands of brilliantly colored butterflies from around the globe emerging, feeding, and flying in a lush tropical environment at Dow Gardens.

### Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade & Races (Mar)

Join thousands of spirited folks in the streets at this celebration of all-things-Irish!

## April

### Bavarian Easter Celebration (Apr – May)

Experience rich displays of spring flowers, colored Easter eggs, and decorations throughout Frankenmuth.

### Saginaw on Stage Music Festival (Apr)

Discover top-notch local talent, with performers across multiple stages at the historic Saginaw Club!

### Shipshewana on the Road (Apr)

Shop with fellow enthusiasts at this traveling show, and find some of the most unique trinkets & treasures under the sun!

### Zehnder's Ragtime Festival (Apr)

Celebrate energetic Ragtime music at multiple shows, each with delicious menus served alongside your entertainment.

### Freeland Walleye Festival (Apr)

With carnival rides, a casino, parade — and a fishing tournament — celebrate with citywide rummage sales, fireworks, a fish fry, and more!

### Bringin' Back the 80s Fest (Apr)

Dance your way through reliving the 80s with live cover "hair bands," best-dressed contests, and more.

Frankenmuth Dog Bowl – Frankenmuth, MI



Butterflies in Bloom – Midland, MI

World Expo of Beer – Frankenmuth, MI



Balloons Over Bavarian Inn – Frankenmuth, MI

## May

### Cinco de Mayo (May)

Celebrate the largest Hispanic parade in Michigan, and enjoy family festivities at Jolt Credit Union Event Park. Taste authentic fare and experience live music & Hispanic dancing!

### Funtown Chowdown Food Truck Festival (May – Sep)

Taste your way through a lineup of 20+ Michigan-based food trucks — and enjoy tap takeovers & live music!

### Friday Fun Nights (May – Sep)

Take part every Friday as Frankenmuth comes alive with musicians & street performers! Enjoy face painting, balloon twisting, and magicians.

### World Expo of Beer (May)

Featuring 350+ beers from around the globe, experience one of Michigan's largest beer sampling events!

### The Great Lakes Market (May)

Discover local food trucks & live musicians as you shop jewelry, art, crafts, and clothing at this "part salvage hunt, part maker center, part culinary adventure."

### Balloons Over Bavarian Inn (May)

Witness surreal sunrise flights as hot air balloons take to the sky, and attend nightly Balloon Glows to see them hang like magical glowing lanterns!

### Frankenmuth Dog Bowl (May)

Attend a festival the whole family will love — four-legged family members, too! Experience DockDogs® & Disc Dog Competitions, a Pet Parade, and more.

### Art Seen Festival (May)

Pick up a brush & paint, or simply enjoy watching, as a community-created mural goes up in Downtown Midland — and enjoy acoustic performances by local musicians.

Bringin' Back the 80s Fest – Frankenmuth, MI

