

GO GREAT LAKES BAY GUIDE

Find Moments of Pure Greatness this Winter
when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan

FLIP to explore
in fall



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FIND MOMENTS OF

IN THE CHILL

PURE GREATNESS

IN THE WARMTH

When you **Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan** this **winter**, we promise you'll be in a place to slow down, linger longer, and **find moments of pure greatness** woven throughout **six charming small towns**.

Come here to lose yourself in **nature**, and find yourself **at peace**. Soak up the **stillness** of **winter** on **snowy trails**, glide along **outdoor ice rinks**, or set up your **shanty** and enjoy some **solitude**.

Here, **relaxing & refreshing** isn't just reserved for the **great outdoors**. You'll find it everywhere, in a million little moments. In the clip-clop of horses' hooves pulling carriages along **freshly powdered streets**. In quiet afternoon strolls through town, popping in & out of **quaint boutiques**. In the aroma of **locally roasted beans** wafting out of **cozy coffee shops**, or the first sip of made-here **suds & spirits**.

There are **moments of pure greatness** all around — if we linger long enough to soak them in. Find yours this **winter** when you **Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan**.

GO GREAT LAKES BAY IN MICHIGAN

Bay City - Birch Run - Chesaning - Frankenmuth - Midland - Saginaw

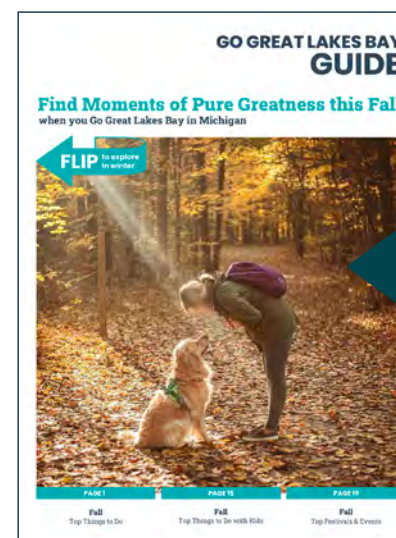
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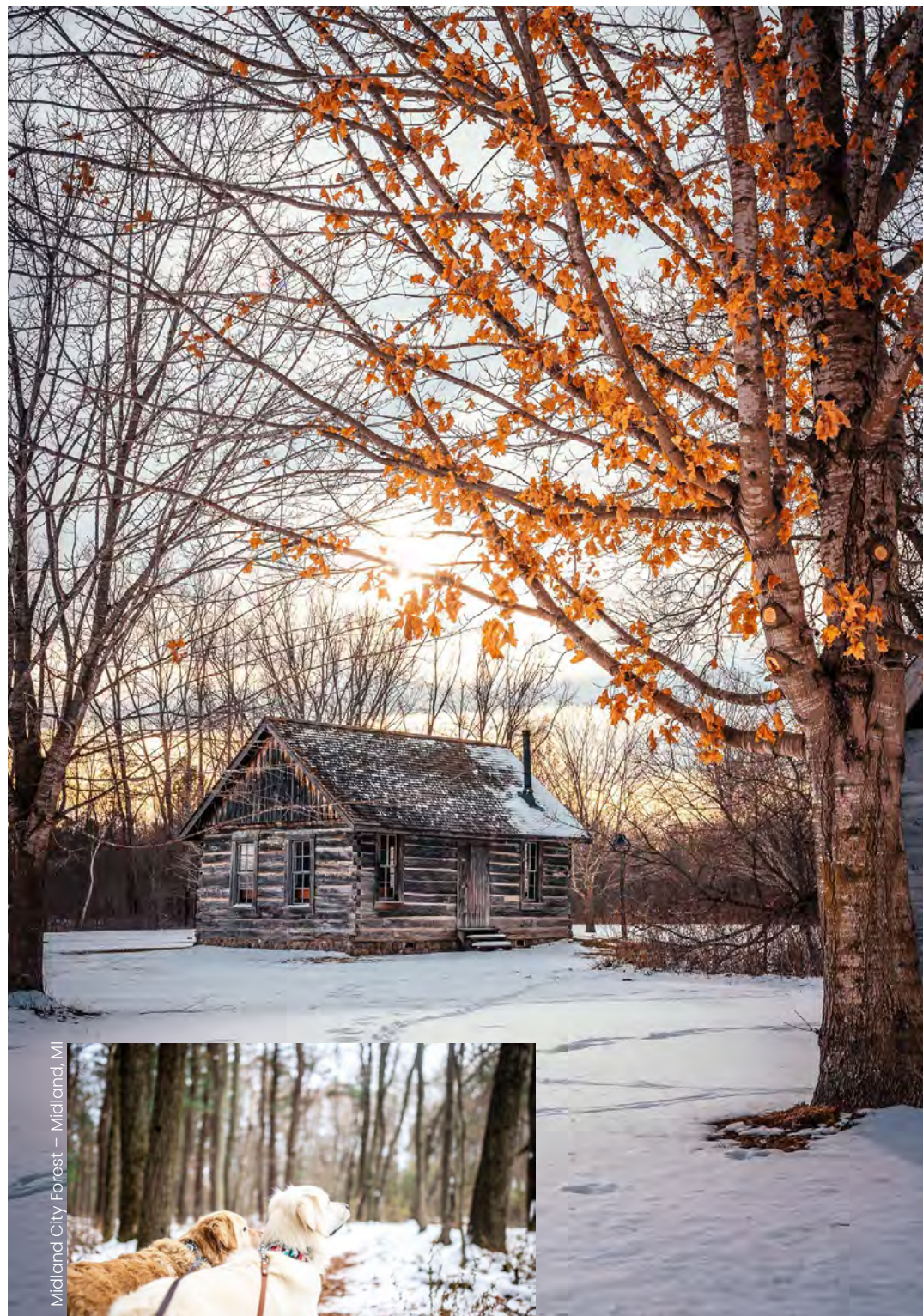
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Midland City Forest – Midland, MI

Chippewa Nature Center – Midland, MI



Top Winter Things to Do

Bundled up in bright-white snow, snuggled 'round for hot cocoa, or off to festivals & seasonal celebrations? Indulge in each as you discover these winter wonderlands when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan!

Outdoors & Nature



Discover 110 acres of winter wonders at **Dow Gardens** — and the nation’s longest canopy walk for bird’s-eye views of snowy forest & ponds!

Twirl laps under the twinkling lights in the cozy winter vibes of Little Bavaria at the **Frankenmuth Ice Rink**.

Explore sprawling, snowy countryside on the **Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail**, a gorgeous setting for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or fat tire biking.

Glide into adventure on snowshoes or skis at **Chippewa Nature Center**, across 19 miles of groomed & glistening trails.

Slip into ice skates at **Midland City Forest**, then hit the trails on a fat bike or snowshoes before warming up by the bonfire.

Experience **Bay City State Park**, its trails groomed for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat tire biking.

Get a winter workout on cross-country skis at **Hoyt Park**, or enjoy the ice rink & snow-

boarding hills — and hot cocoa in the warm-ing house!

Bundle up, bring binoculars, and discover the **Saginaw Bay Birding Trail**’s 142 miles of wintry shoreline.

Tours & Experiences



From flavorful **wine & ale trails** to captivating **museum tours**, discover our curated, **self-guided tours** this winter.

Snuggle under a blanket on a horse-drawn carriage with **Fantasy Carriage Company** or **H&H Acres and Carriage Service**, and see snowy scenery all through Frankenmuth.

Cruise to see more than 400 architectural wonders with the **Mid-Century Modern Mid-land** mobile app.

Learn fascinating facts about Frankenmuth — and find shops & eateries you’d like to visit later — while warming up on the **Golden Ticket Trolley**.



Saginaw Spirit OHL Hockey
Saginaw, MI

Live Entertainment & Nightlife



Discover cool, cold-weather events from concerts to comedy in the warmth of **Midland Center for the Arts, The Dow Event Center, The Temple Theatre**, or **State Theatre of Bay City**.

Snag the best seats for a high-energy **Saginaw Spirit** OHL hockey game!

Enjoy old-school arcade games, specialty burgers, and a dozen beers on tap at **Brinstar**, open late-night.

Bowl for strikes at **Stardust**, then try escape rooms to axe-throwing, and sample from 41 draft craft brews at **The Taproom!**

Ice Fishing on the Saginaw River
Bay City, MI



Ice Fishing on the Saginaw River
Bay City, MI

Winter Festivals



See professional snow sculptors & ice carvers from around the world make frozen magic during **Zehnder’s Snowfest** — or explore a winter wonderland during the **Bay City State Park Winter Festival**.

Social Districts

Warm up with a wintry cocktail while wandering through town at **The Commons in Midland** or the **Frankenmuth Social District**.

Fishing



Set up your shanty on **Lake Huron’s Saginaw Bay** to enjoy some of the best ice fishing for walleye in all of Michigan!



Zehnder’s Snowfest – Frankenmuth, MI



Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland – Frankenmuth, MI



Frankenmuth River Place Shops – Frankenmuth, MI

Shopping



Find joy & magic at the world's largest Christmas store, **Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland**, with 50,000 trims, gifts, and ornaments to shop!

If winter is your reason for a new wardrobe or seasonal decor, then **Birch Run Premium Outlets** is your wonderland, with more than 100 stores.

Brighten up winter at 40 stores within **Frankenmuth River Place Shops** and sample wines & spirits to fudge & toffee.

Explore "Michigan's Largest Village of Unique Shops," dusted with snow & perfectly cozy in the winter, at **Pride and Country Village**.

Step inside a cobblestone-lined castle, the **Bavarian Inn Castle Shops**, and uncover treasures across seven unique shops.

Sample from an assortment of eateries inside **SVRC Marketplace** while shopping specialties from yarn to beads.

Discover one-of-a-kind gifts & goods by Michigan artisans at **Serendipity Road, Creative Lane**, or **Amazin' Mitten**.

Find Michigan-inspired souvenirs & memorable gifts at **Frank's Muth, Covered Bridge Shop**, or **The Michigan Shoppe**.

Uncover home décor & unique gifts inside

inviting shops like **Lumberman's Mercantile, Violets Blue, Little House, G.T. Homestead**, or **Warmbier Farms**.

Peruse & purchase small-batch cheeses from around the world at **Artigiano Artisan Cheese Shoppe**, or discover 270 specialty cheeses at **Frankenmuth Cheese Haus**.

Gather holiday gifts & gourmet items for the cook in your life inside **Peel 'n Pare Gifts for the Kitchen**.

Follow your nose to scents of the season at **Coyer Candle Co.**, filled with hand-poured soy wax candles.

Browse interesting treasures & trend-forward fashions at **My Secret Garden** and **Botanica Modern Market**.

Shop curated fashions inside **Omoni Boutique** or **Fran & Dot Boutique** — and leave with a stylish & cozy winter wardrobe!

Fashions, accessories, apothecary items — find it all at **Abby's of Frankenmuth, White House Boutique, Rapunzel's Boutique, Adorn Boutique, Ellie & Isabelle, Sassy & Chic Boutique**, or **Margos & Co.**

Stock up on all the essentials for outdoor winter adventures at **Frank's Great Outdoors, Northwoods Wholesale Outlet, Little Forks Outfitters**, or **Saginaw Bay Trading Company**.

Antiquing



Scout for treasures at Michigan's largest antique mall, **Bay City Antiques Center/Bay Antique Center**, with 400 booths of regional antiques & European imports.

Weave through 90 booths overflowing with antiques & vintage goods at the **Freeland Antique Mall**.

Browse 70 antique dealers at the **Antique Warehouse** before enjoying lunch at the café.

Slip into pure nostalgia at **Americana Company Antiques**, with unique antiquities & local memorabilia.

Step inside **Court Street Antiques** and feel present in every bit of this memorable antique & upcycle shop.

Find vintage kitchenware to collectibles inside **The Little House Antiques**, delighting shoppers for over 40 years.

Travel through three well-stocked buildings at **Thrifty Treasures Antiques & More** for vintage pieces & priceless collectibles.

Shop vintage galore (and start thinking spring by picking up garden décor) from 60 vendors at **Around the Farm Antiques**.

Visit **The Vintage Greenhouse** to peruse vintage furnishings & antiques, sprinkled in with local art oddities.

Cozy into **Timeless Trading Company** to uncover interesting antiques, vintage goods, and thrifted items.

Explore **The Sanford Antique Mall**, a sprawling setting filled with antiques, primitives, and one-of-a-kind collectibles.

Stop by **The Antique Center** to find your next treasure, from clothing & jewelry to collectibles & antiques of all varieties.



Antique Shopping – Bay City, MI





Oxygen Lounge – Midland, MI



Modern Craft Wine – Frankenmuth, MI

Breweries & Taprooms



Warm up with winter's flagship Christmas Town Ale inside **Frankenmuth Brewery**, Michigan's oldest microbrewery.

Sip seasonal Lumberjack Brawl Midnight Wheat at **Midland Brewing Company** while overlooking a wintry beer garden.

Linger in a laid-back space at **Oracle Brewing Company**, with small-batch brews like their fan-favorite C-Beans, a chocolate coffee stout.

Relax in rustic-modern digs at **North Peak Brewing Company**, with handcrafted brews & hearth-baked pizzas.

Kick back with seasonal brews, seltzers, and wines at **Loggers Brewing Company**, and watch for Trivia Nights, Euchre, and live music.

Take in the snowy countryside setting at **The Maple Grille Restaurant & Microbrewery** while cozied in with wood-fired microbrews.

Sip on suds that pay homage to the area at **Tri-City Brewing Company** and be there for Hot Dog Fridays & Trivia Nights!

Discover 80 brews, ciders, and meads, all made by Michigan artisans, at **Whichcraft Taproom**, including 40 available on draft.

Taste inventive beers & house-made seltzers at **Clock & Candle Brewatorium**, tucked into a historic train depot.

Enjoy a wood-fired pie & a pint at **W.H. Ales**

Brewpub, with Vanilla Bean Stout to Sesh'n Haze IPA.

Wrap your hands around a warm mug of coffee — or a pint of cold beer — while savoring baked goods & live music at **MI Element Grains & Grounds**.

Distilleries & Craft Cocktails

Distillery, brewery, winery — experience all three this winter at **Three Bridges Distillery & Taproom**, and savor your Oatmeal Stout or Cinnamon Whiskey Sour.

Cozy up with (vodka, rum, whiskey, Moonshine) cocktails in a leather chair by the fireplace at **Old Town Distillery by Wonder**.

Unwind with artisan cocktails inside **The Public House**, each handcrafted with house-made syrups.

Choose from a curated menu of wintry craft cocktails to warm the soul inside **Nord Social**, a Scandinavian-inspired hangout.

Saunter into **Beaver's Pub** to linger over signature smoked cocktails in a laid-back whiskey bourbon bar.

Grab a handcrafted cocktail and soak up the inviting atmosphere inside hockey-themed **Gordie's Bar**.

Sample community-driven whiskeys at **EverNorth Spirits Co.**, especially their unique bourbon blends.



Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie – Bay City & Frankenmuth, MI



Neighbors Natural Wine & Bottle Shop – Bay City, MI

The Public House – Bay City, MI

Wineries & Wine Bars

Gather in the warm ambiance of **Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie** to explore tap wines & house specialty cocktails.

Sink into plush seating by the fire at **Neighbors Natural Wine & Bottle Shop** and sip natural wine pours & wine-forward cocktails.

Enjoy a guided sampling session at the Frankenmuth tasting room of **St. Julian Winery & Distillery**, Michigan's most-awarded winery.

Indulge in a one-of-a-kind tasting (mixing wines with each other, lemonade, or even cream soda) at **Modern Craft Wine**.

Relax at **Crazy Vines Winery** and sample wines, ciders, and charcuterie in a rustic setting.

Cozy Coffee Shops



Wrap your hands around a nice, warm mug of winter respite! Breathe in the aroma of locally roasted beans from **Live Oak Coffeehouse** or **Creation**

Coffee, cozy in by the fire with your Orange Cardamom Latte at **Harless & Hugh Coffee**, or discover a one-of-a-kind shop dripping in Beatles memorabilia at **Beatles & Beans Coffee Emporium**.

Waterfront Dining



Even in winter, there's still something special about dining on the water! Relax riverside at **Real Seafood Company** with fresh fish & premium seafood,

bite into O's Famous Burgers, ground fresh daily, at **H2O's Waterside Grill**, or sip pints of Christmas Town Ale with your comfort food while overlooking the Cass River at **Frankenmuth Brewery**.

Casual-Upscale Dining

Pair indulgent pastas with tap wines at **Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie**, sip wines fermented in-house alongside decadent dishes at **Artisan Urban Bistro**, or savor elevated comforts & seasonal cocktails at **Beatniks**. Enjoy artful European plates & fine wines inside **The Station 100**, partake in the perfect Italian meal at **Gratzi**, or choose from steaks, seafood, and an extensive wine list at **Old City Hall** or **Jake's Old City Grill**.

More Dining Highlights

Warm up winter with locally sourced dishes & microbrewed beers, both wood-fired, at **The Maple Grille Restaurant & Microbrewery**, choose from flatbreads & burgers to 54 craft beer taps at **Tavern 101**, sink your teeth into St. Louis-style barbecue at **Molasses Smokehouse & Bar**, or enjoy an elevated sports bar with a scratch-kitchen at **O's Mid & Main**.



Harless & Hugh Coffee – Bay City, MI



Cafe Zinc – Midland, MI

World-Famous Chicken Dinners

Take part in the full, traditional Frankenmuth experience while dining on world-famous, family-style chicken dinners at **Zehnder's Restaurant** or **Bavarian Inn Restaurant**.

Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie – Bay City & Frankenmuth, MI



Outdoor Dining



With stars overhead & warmth within, melt into a magical evening inside one of **Café Zinc's** private, heated outdoor winter dining pods, and savor Pasta Bolognese to Pan-Seared Salmon.



Painterly Pottery
Bay City, MI

Alden B. Dow Home & Studio
Midland, MI



Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum
Saginaw, MI

Arts & Culture



Be guided through an oasis of mid-century modern architecture, the **Alden B. Dow Home & Studio**, this winter.

Discover the stunning **Saginaw Art Museum & Gardens**, featuring two award-winning modern wings, a permanent collection, and dynamic exhibitions.

Explore the **Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum**, and bundle up for the outdoor sculpture garden, beautiful when blanketed in winter white.

Venture out into snowy scenery to take in murals & sculpture with the free **Great Lakes Bay Region Public Art Passport!**

Bring out your inner artist at **Board & Brush Creative Studio**, in workshops that result in inspirational pieces of wooden décor.

Relax & create in a comfortable environment at **Painterly Pottery** or **Space Studios**, where you'll DIY from ready-to-be personalized pottery.

Craft with the help of an instructor at **AR Workshop Midland** and enjoy your (candle-pouring, wood sign-making) experience.

Warm up while wandering through the gorgeously curated gallery at **Studio 23/The Arts Center**.

History & Museums



Discover the only museum of its kind in the country, the **Michigan Heroes Museum**, featuring displays of Michigan veterans.

Visit a French chateau-style castle, the **Castle Museum of Saginaw County History**, and discover three floors of fascinating displays.

Spend time inside the **Frankenmuth Historical Museum**, uncovering the stories of Frankenmuth's first settlers.

Reserve your personally guided tour of the **Autism History Museum** to explore a space that celebrates neurodiversity.



Golden Ticket Trolley
Frankenmuth, MI

Holiday Light Shows & Tours

Stroll the immersive, walk-thru **Loons Holiday Lights Extravaganza**, and see more than a million lights while warming up around fire pits with festive bites & sips!

Jingle all the way through Frankenmuth aboard the **Golden Ticket Trolley** as you're guided to the season's best holiday lights.

Swing by **Frankenmuth's Spectacular Musical Tree Show**, where time slows, popular Christmas songs play, and colorful lights dance.

Get cozy in your car for **Little Bavaria's "Little" Driving Light Tour** and follow a holiday poem along festive streets through twinkling neighborhoods.

See Christmas displays come to life from the warmth of your vehicle as you listen to sounds of the season at **The Freeland Lights**.

Dow Gardens Christmas Walk
Midland, MI



Holiday Events



Take in the joy & warmth of a traditional, open-air German Christmas market, **Frankenmuth ChristKindlMarkt**, and shop handmade items for holiday gifting.

Sip on piping-hot cocoa or coffee while

enjoying an old-fashioned evening of candlelight & music during the **Dow Gardens Christmas Walk**.

Gather in a festive greenhouse to shop artisan gifts at **The Great Lakes Market**, and sample from food trucks while listening to live music.



Zehnder's Restaurant
Frankenmuth, MI

Live Holiday Entertainment

Celebrate the season at **Midland Center for the Arts** when the Midland Symphony Orchestra presents Holiday Pops, and Straight No Chaser brings their Making Spirits Bright Tour.

Savor seasonal delights amidst the historic charm & grandeur of **The Temple Theatre**, including The Nutcracker by The United European Ballet Company.

Watch a beloved holiday tradition when the World Ballet Company presents The Nutcracker with a live orchestra at **The Dow Event Center**.

Enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner at **Zehnder's Restaurant**, and take in a memorable holiday show featuring Three Men and a Tenor.

Swoon over the Sinatra Spectacular Holiday Show or hear the seasonal stylings of world-renowned pianist Kevin Cole inside the **State Theatre of Bay City**.



Top Winter Things to Do with Kids

Whether you sled down snowy slopes and glide on outdoor ice rinks — or warm up at indoor waterparks, hands-on museums, and vintage arcades — create forever memories as a family this winter when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan!

Outdoors & Nature

Experience 110 acres of snowy splendor at **Dow Gardens** — especially on a canopy walk through the frozen forest!

Bring skates or lace up rental pairs for the **Frankenmuth Ice Rink** and twirl laps under the string lights in Little Bavaria.

Explore a winter wonderland, **Chippewa Nature Center**, with 19 miles of snow-covered trails, a Log Schoolhouse, and 1870s Homestead Farm.

Bundle up for a day of winter play at **Midland City Forest**! Skate the ice rink, go sledding — then warm up by the bonfire.

Enjoy snowboarding hills, sledding thrills, and the ice rink at **Hoyt Park** before hot cocoa in the warming house!

Pull on your boots or slide into snowshoes, and trek through the powder together along the **Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail**.

Tours & Experiences



Laugh, learn, and tinker your way through our fun & educational self-guided **STEM Tour** as a family.

Snuggle up on a horse-drawn ride with **Fantasy Carriage Company** or **H&H Acres and Carriage Service** while the kids point out (fudge, taffy, toy) shops they'd like to visit later!

Let the little ones enjoy an I-Spy activity on a family tour of Frankenmuth aboard the **Golden Ticket Trolley**.

Live Family Entertainment

Snag a front-row seat to family-friendly shows & winter fun at **Midland Center for the Arts**, **The Dow Event Center**, **The Temple Theatre**, or **State Theatre of Bay City**.

Grab tickets to the coolest games in town, **Saginaw Spirit** OHL hockey games!



Chippewa Nature Center — Midland, MI



Mid-Michigan Children's Museum — Saginaw, MI



Saginaw Spirit OHL Hockey — Saginaw, MI

Museums & More

Get into hands-on exploration at the **Mid-Michigan Children's Museum**. Crawl inside a larger-than-life mouth, experiment at the Tinker Track, and find tons of winter fun!

Take the kiddos to the cosmos at **Delta College Planetarium** and stop at the gift shop for out-of-this-world souvenirs.

Winter weather frightful? All is delightful inside **Painterly Pottery** and **Space Studios**, with handcrafted pottery available to paint!

Dow Gardens — Midland, MI



Indoor Family Fun Zones

Trade winter boots for bowling shoes at **Stardust**, then play two-story laser tag, ride indoor bumper cars, and hit the arcade.

Take family time to new heights at **Urban Air Adventure Park** — on giant trampolines, climbing walls & ziplines, and two kinds of bumper cars!

Let a roll of quarters take you out of the cold and into retro gaming fun at **Crazy Quarters Arcade**, with arcade classics & pinball machines.

Leave winter behind inside **Valley Lanes**, with bowling to bumper cars, mini-golf, arcade games, laser tag, and a laser maze.

Bring the family into **Brinstar** for pinball & arcade games — but stick around for their creative burgers & fresh-cut fries!

Find an action-packed palace of arcade games at **Funway Amusements Saginaw**.

Have fun in the sand (minus the sun) at **Little Builders Play Yard**, a huge indoor sandbox filled with construction toys!

Shake off winter weather inside **The Playground**, where kids can slide, climb, and have a ball — and parents can relax with a latte.

Defy gravity at **Airborne Adventure Park**, with wall-to-wall trampolines and over a dozen attractions.

Rack up points and win big prizes at **River Place Game Room**, then journey through the **Ultimate Mirror Maze**.

Warm up while skating laps inside **The Roll Arena** at **Captain Dave's Family Entertainment Center**.

Light up the night with neon colors inside the 3D UV blacklight **Saginaw GellyBall** arena at **906 Lapeer**.

Kid-Friendly Winter Festivals

See snow sculptors & ice carvers create cool art at **Zehnder's Snowfest** or take part in a family ice fishing derby & winter wildlife

workshops during the **Bay City State Park Winter Festival**.

Indoor Waterparks

Warm up winter at Michigan's biggest indoor waterpark & family fun center, **Bavarian Blast Waterpark**! Try 16 new waterslides and a wave pool — then tackle the ropes course, rock climbing, and laser tag.

Dive into aquatic fun at **Zehnder's Splash Village**! Go wild with tube slides, a six-story family raft ride, and the arcade — and even enjoy poolside dining options.

Kids' Shopping

Share in the magic of the world's largest Christmas store, **Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland**, and pay a visit to Santa!

Bundle up for a Bavarian shopping experience at **Frankenmuth River Place Shops** and sample fudge to cupcakes while scouting for souvenirs.

Discover a place fit for princes & princesses at **Bavarian Inn Castle Shops**, well-stocked with unique toys & candy.

Find something for the whole family from 100 stores at **Birch Run Premium Outlets**, including Go! Games & Toys for kids.

Take your time browsing **Joyful Tantrum** for games & toys that inspire — batteries not required.

Explore a "mountain of toys" at **Toyberg**, from building kits to puzzles.

Wander through a whimsical shop filled with colorful confections & nostalgic candies inside **Tummy Ache Candy Store**.

Find hand-dipped chocolates & old-fashioned candies inside historic **St. Laurent Brothers**.

Taste taffy pulled before your eyes at **Frankenmuth Taffy Kitchen**, or fudge hand-paddled at **Zak & Mac's Chocolate Haus** or **Frankenmuth Fudge Kitchen**.



Crazy Quarters Arcade — Bay City, MI



Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland — Frankenmuth, MI



St. Laurent Brothers — Bay City, MI



Zehnder's Splash Village — Frankenmuth, MI

Family Holiday Light Shows & Tours

Wander through a winter spectacle of over a million lights at the **Loons Holiday Lights Extravaganza!** Hop on a holiday train ride, and warm up around fire pits with seasonal treats.

Pick a holiday playlist and cruise through **Wilderness Trails Zoo** to marvel at more than 2 million lights — and nocturnal zoo friends, too!

Tune your radio to 93.9 FM, and listen to sounds of the season while thousands of lights dazzle at **The Freeland Lights**.

Sing along to **Frankenmuth's Spectacular Musical Tree Show**, and enjoy popular holiday classics while colorful lights dance.

Enjoy a holiday light tour of Frankenmuth while staying warm & toasty on the **Golden Ticket Trolley** — with Christmas jingles all along the way!

Grab some hot cocoa, set the holiday tunes, and head out for **Little Bavaria's "Little" Driving Light Tour**, with a holiday poem to guide you.

Cruise down **25 Christmas Lane** past **Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland** to see a display of 100,000 twinkling lights.

Wilderness Trails Zoo – Birch Run, MI



Frankenmuth's Spectacular Musical Tree Show – Frankenmuth, MI



Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland – Frankenmuth, MI



Family Holiday Events

Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus at **Holidays in the Heart of the City**. Take in horse-drawn wagon rides, a cookie house competition, and the finale fireworks show!

Stroll through a winter wonderland during the **Dow Gardens Christmas Walk**. Sip hot cocoa while enjoying merry melodies, and say hi to Santa's reindeer!

Experience **Tis the Season Weekends** at **Frankenmuth River Place Shops**. Visit Santa, sing with strolling carolers, and celebrate Christmas in Santa's Workshop.

Nate & Mary Ida Doan Santa House – Bay City, MI



Santa's Reindeer Farm – Frankenmuth, MI

Family Holiday Traditions

Stop by **Santa's Reindeer Farm** on **Grandpa Tiny's Farm** to meet Santa and his reindeer-in-training and deliver wish lists!

Step into pure joy inside the **Midland Area Santa House**. Warm up by the fireplace, sit in Santa's chair, and be on the lookout for his reindeer.

All aboard **The Northern Star Train!** During the Midland Area Santa House season, take a free ride through town on a train decked out in holiday décor.

Gather inside a cozy log cabin, the **Nate & Mary Ida Doan Santa House**, and have your photo taken with Santa.

TOP HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & EVENTS



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

Christmas in the Village
Birch Run, MI

Whether you gather for tree lighting ceremonies or festive holiday markets — feel joy inside the world's largest Christmas store or find seasonal sparkle at dazzling light shows — discover where to be for all the holiday cheer when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan!

Holiday Events

NOVEMBER

Downtown Midland Holiday Open House
Find special, seasonal items at Downtown shops — and watch Brush Monkeys paint the town with holiday window scenes.

Downtown Bay City Merry Little Weekend
Get into holiday gifting season when you shop Downtown and enter to win a gift basket of goodies.

Festival of Trees Wander through a wonderland of trees & wreaths decorated by local artists, and pick up raffle tickets for your chance to win one!

Holidays in the Heart of the City Visit Santa & Mrs. Claus, enjoy caroling & hot cocoa, and take in horse-drawn wagon rides, holiday concerts, and a fireworks show!

Christmas Parade Watch floats, marching bands — and Santa — cruise through Downtown Saginaw streets during this 50-year tradition.

Merry & Bright — Heritage Vintage Market
Deck the halls in seasonal décor with your finds from this holiday market of handmade & vintage items.

Midland Santa Holiday Parade See festive floats & costumed characters, hear marching bands play holiday tunes, and feel the yuletide cheer.

Downtown Midland Cocoa Crawl Warm up inside shops & eateries while sampling their unique spins on that cold-weather classic: hot cocoa!

Christmas in the Village – Birch Run, MI



NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

Frankenmuth ChristKindlMarkt Experience an open-air German Christmas market as you shop from artisan vendors while sipping spiced wine or hot cocoa.

Tis the Season Weekends Join strolling carolers, meet Santa Claus, and see his elaborately decorated workshop at Frankenmuth River Place Shops.

Sundays in the City Discover magic & merriment in Downtown Bay City! See shops decked out for the holidays, and enjoy free carriage rides & strolling carolers.

DECEMBER

Hollyday Art Mart Find artisan gifts by Michigan makers, pick up fresh holly, and get in the holiday spirit.

Christmas at The Pines Take a guided tour through the festive home of Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow, located on the grounds of Dow Gardens.

Downtown Midland Jingle Bell Fun Run/Walk Wear your cozy Christmas gear, and jingle all the way through this free, one-mile course.

Christmas in the Village Reserve your spot to visit with Santa and wander through the Kringle Market while snacking on tasty, seasonal treats.

Downtown Midland Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl Hop around between local bars & pubs, enjoying spirited sips of the holiday season!

The Great Lakes Market – Holiday Market
Gather for a magical evening inside a greenhouse filled with Christmas trees! Sample from food trucks, shop handmade goods, and listen to live music.

Downtown Midland Holly Jolly Days Stroll past painted window displays, stop into shops decorated for the season, and climb onto a horse-drawn carriage ride.

Dow Gardens Christmas Walk Stroll a gently lit pathway through a winter wonderland. Join carolers in song, and enjoy an old-fashioned evening of candlelight & music.

Holiday Light Shows & Tours

NOVEMBER – JANUARY

Loons Holiday Lights Extravaganza
Experience an immersive, interactive walk-thru winter festival, with over a million lights, themed entertainment, and seasonal bites & sips!

Wilderness Trails Zoo Holiday Light Drive-Thru Pick a holiday playlist and wind through the zoo to see more than 2 million lights — and nocturnal zoo friends!

Golden Ticket Trolley Frankenmuth Christmas Light Tours Hop aboard a holly, jolly heated trolley for a driving light tour of Frankenmuth with festive music!

Frankenmuth’s Spectacular Musical Tree Show Meet at this magical, 40-foot tree to journey through Christmas jingles with thousands of lights dancing.

Little Bavaria’s “Little” Driving Light Tour
Fill your mugs with hot cocoa, turn up the holiday tunes, and follow a festive poem to brilliant light displays.

DECEMBER

The Freeland Lights Drive into the park, tune your radio to 93.9 FM, and listen to popular Christmas songs while lights dance along to the classics.

YEAR-ROUND

25 Christmas Lane Drive through a dazzling display of 100,000 lights, aglow every evening of the year.

Dow Gardens Christmas Walk – Midland, MI



Christmas at The Pines – Midland, MI



Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremonies

NOVEMBER

Saginaw Waterworks Lighting Ceremony

Delight in a spectacular holiday display that's been lit for nearly a century!

Frankenmuth Christmas Experience Kickoff

Slip into skates at the ice rink, sip hot cocoa, and see the 40-foot musical Christmas tree light up for the season.

Santa's Arrival in Wenonah Park

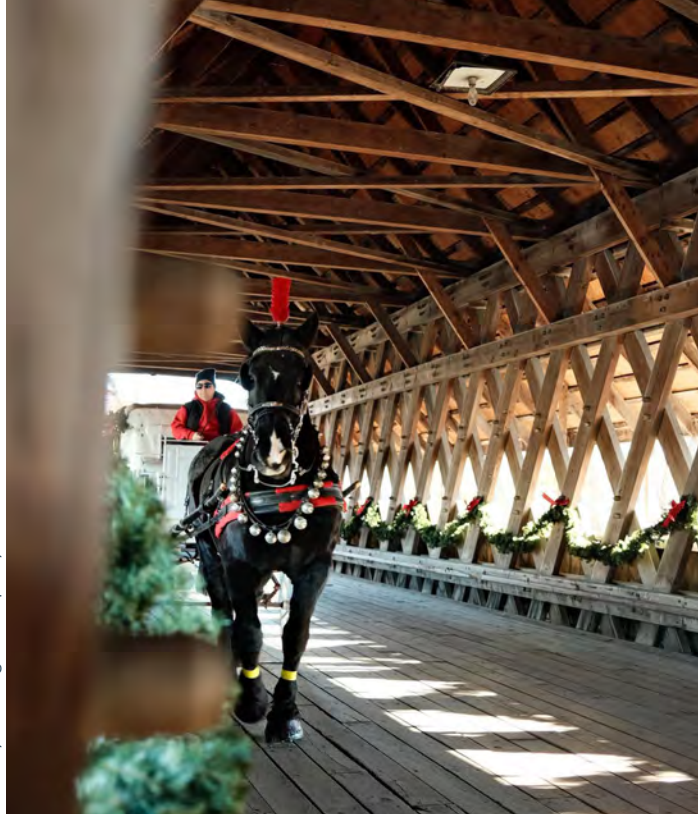
Watch a towering tree illuminated, share wish lists with Santa, enjoy carolers, and take a carriage ride.

DECEMBER

Midland Area Santa House & Courthouse Lighting Ceremony

Savor hot cocoa & cookies, see the lights go bright, and welcome St. Nick as he opens his house for the season.

Fantasy Carriage Company – Frankenmuth, MI



Santa's Reindeer Farm – Frankenmuth, MI

Santa's Arrival in Wenonah Park – Bay City, MI

Live Holiday Entertainment

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

Midland Center for the Arts Add some sparkle to your holidays with Straight No Chaser and their Making Spirits Bright Tour, or hear the Midland Symphony Orchestra in Holiday Pops.

The Dow Event Center Be mesmerized by Mannheim Steamroller Christmas with Chip Davis or watch as the World Ballet Company presents The Nutcracker with a live orchestra.

The Temple Theatre Take in a holiday ensemble by the Saginaw Choral Society or be dazzled during The Nutcracker by The United European Ballet Company.

DECEMBER

Zehnder's Holiday Lunch & Dinner Shows Taste tradition and be entertained by a one-of-a-kind holiday show featuring Three Men and a Tenor.

State Theatre of Bay City Hear world-renowned pianist Kevin Cole perform seasonal favorites or swoon over the Sinatra Spectacular Holiday Show.

Midland Area Santa House & Courthouse Lighting Ceremony – Midland, MI



Holiday Traditions

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

Santa's Reindeer Farm Take a break from the holiday hustle on Grandpa Tiny's Farm when you gather at the barn to meet Santa and his reindeer-in-training.

Nate & Mary Ida Doan Santa House Capture the Christmas spirit with a visit to Santa in his cozy log cabin, and keep watch for reindeer.

NOVEMBER – JANUARY

The Frankenmuth Christmas Experience

With a driving light tour, musical tree show, holiday photo ops, and a free Christmas shuttle – enjoy merry & magical Michigan's Little Bavaria.

DECEMBER

Midland Area Santa House With holiday music playing and jolly elves busy at work, see magical displays, visit Old St. Nick, and be on the lookout for reindeer!

The Northern Star Train Throughout the Midland Area Santa House season, enjoy a free & festive ride through town aboard a whimsical train decked out in holiday spirit.

YEAR-ROUND

Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland Step into pure joy inside the world's largest Christmas store! Shop 50,000 trims, gifts, and ornaments – and time your trip to special Santa visits.

Fantasy Carriage Company & H&H Acres and Carriage Service Snuggle up for a horse-drawn holiday ride through Little Bavaria's twinkling lights & snowy scenery.



Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland – Frankenmuth, MI