

GO GREAT LAKES BAY GUIDE

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

FLIP to explore
in summer



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FIND MOMENTS OF PURE GREATNESS

IN FULL BLOOM

When you **Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan** this **spring**, 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**. Wash away your cares on **calm waters**. Dip your **paddles**, or **rest easy** while you wait for the day's **fresh catch**. Soak up the stillness of **tranquil gardens**, or simply wander a while on **scenic trails**.

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 **charming streets**. In quiet afternoon strolls through town, popping in & out of **quaint boutiques**. In admiring **vibrant murals** that breathe life into **historic buildings**, or gathering for festive **springtime celebrations**.

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

GO GREAT LAKES BAY IN MICHIGAN

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

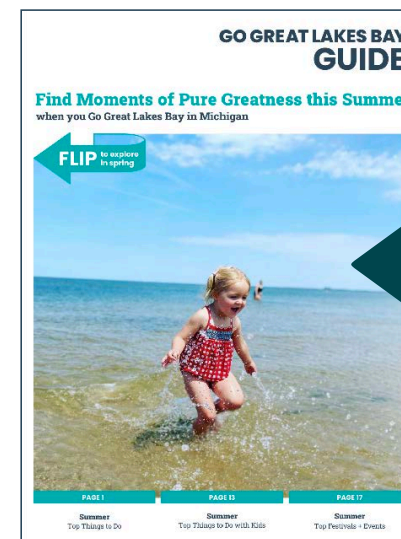
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The Fortress – Frankenmuth, MI



Top Spring Things to Do

Whether you tour gorgeous gardens or take in a ball game, hike new trails or hunt for antiques, 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** – and discover a canopy walk that stretches four stories high in the trees!

Venture out to **Chippewa Nature Center** for 19 miles of scenic trails and join a guided Spring Wildflower Walk.

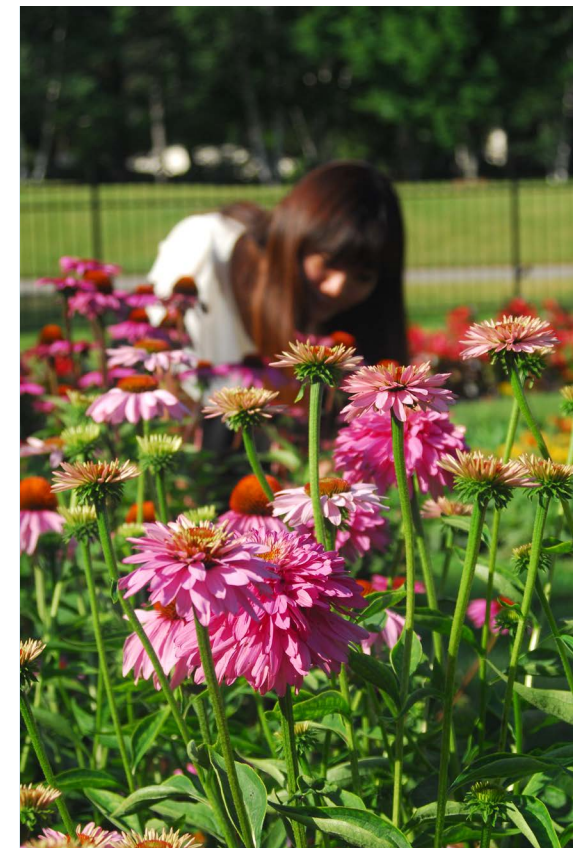
Challenge yourself on an aerial obstacle course of ziplines & rope bridges at **Frankenmuth Aerial Park**.

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

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

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

Golf two of Michigan's must-play public courses, **Apple Mountain** and **The Fortress**, or your choice from over a dozen others.



Dow Gardens – Midland, MI

Tours + Experiences



Find floral beauty this spring on our self-guided **Gardens Tour**, from a 110-acre botanical oasis to serene Japanese gardens.

Take in Frankenmuth's spring florals on a horse-drawn carriage ride with **Fantasy Carriage Company** or **H&H Acres and Carriage Service**.

Hop aboard the **Golden Ticket Trolley** to immerse yourself in Frankenmuth on a narrated ride led by a local guide.

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

Bring beverages & coast into great times when you reserve the **Sunrise Pedal Trolley** to bike through Bay City.

Tour the **Alden B. Dow Home and Studio**, an oasis of mid-century modern architecture.

Cruise along a self-guided tour of more than 400 stunning structures with the **Mid-Century Modern Midland** mobile app.

Join **Flavors of Frankenmuth Food Tours** and be guided by seasoned experts to iconic eateries & hidden gems.

Stroll past historic buildings & homes along the **Center Avenue Historic District Walking Tour** of Bay City.

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

Board the **Bavarian Belle Riverboat** or **Frankenmuth FunShips** (beginning in May) to soak up the spring scenery in Little Bavaria.



Bavarian Belle Riverboat – Frankenmuth, MI

Paddling



Launch into a scenic spring paddling trip with **Nor'East Outdoors** or **Frankenmuth Kayak Adventures**.

Fishing



Get in on the spring walleye action on **Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay** when you set out solo or charter a guided fishing excursion.



Frankenmuth Kayak Adventures – Frankenmuth, MI

Spring Festivals



Tap into one of Michigan's biggest beer sampling events, the **World Expo of Beer**, take in whimsical hot air balloon flights at **Balloons Over Bavarian Inn**, and refresh at some of our favorite spring festivals.

Shopping



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

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

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**.

Experience the magic of the world's largest Christmas store, **Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland**, open 361 days a year!

Enjoy the European-style **SVRC Marketplace**, and sample from unique eateries as you browse yarn & beads to sweet treats.

Find handcrafted, artisan goods at **Serendipity Road**, **Creative Lane**, or **Amazin' Mitten**.

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

Shop décor, garden, and gifts inside **Violets Blue**, **Little House**, **G.T. Homestead**, **Lumberman's Mercantile**, and **Warmbier Farms**.

Browse the curated racks at **Ferne Boutique**, **Omoni Boutique**, and **Fran & Dot Boutique** to freshen up your spring wardrobe.

Try on the latest fashions & fabulous accessories at **Abby's of Frankenmuth**, **Adorn Boutique**, **White House Boutique**, **Rapunzel's Boutique**, **Ellie & Isabelle**, **Sassy & Chic Boutique**, or **Margos & Co.**

Discover 270 different specialty cheeses inside **Frankenmuth Cheese Haus** or small-batch cheeses from around the globe at **Artigiano Artisan Cheese Shoppe**.

Take home the perfect souvenir from **Frank's Muth** or **The Michigan Shoppe**.

Find all-things-kitchen & cooking at **Peel 'n Pare Gifts for the Kitchen**.

Follow your nose through **Coyer Candle Co.** to discover delicious scents of hand-poured soy wax candles.

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

Ferne Boutique – Bay City, MI



Frankenmuth River Place Shops – Frankenmuth, MI

Antiquing



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

Grab a bite to eat at the cafe inside the **Antique Warehouse** before perusing 70 antique vendors & six specialty shops.

Stroll down memory lane at **Freeland Antique Mall**, through 90 booths stocked with antiques & vintage goods.

Travel through **Americana Company Antiques** to find a beautiful blend of local memorabilia & unique antiquities.

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

Have fun exploring **Court Street Antiques**, a vintage, antique, and upcycle shop where nothing is newer than 1970!

Bay City Antiques Center/Bay Antique Center – Bay City, MI



See why **The Little House Antiques** has been delighting shoppers for over 40 years, with vintage kitchenware to collectibles.

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

Peruse vintage galore from 60 vendors at **Around the Farm Antiques** and shop interesting garden decor.

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

Wander through **The Vintage Greenhouse** to find antiques, vintage furniture, and one-of-a-kind local art oddities.

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

Explore a thoughtful collection of antique, vintage, and thrifted items inside **Timeless Trading Company**.

Arts + Culture



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

Visit the **Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum**, then step outside for beautiful bronze sculptures, botanical beds, and fountains.

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

Turn raw wood into a work of art at **Board & Brush Creative Studio** or choose your DIY project inside **AR Workshop Midland**.

Find unfinished, handcrafted pottery ready for painting at **Painterly Pottery** or **Space Studios**.

Spend some time strolling through the gallery at **Studio 23/The Arts Center**.

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 memorable displays of Michigan veterans.

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

Reserve your personal tour of the **Autism History Museum** to honor neurodiversity as you learn about the history of autism.

Beer, Wine + Spirits



Discover a distillery, brewery, and winery in one at **Three Bridges Distillery & Taproom**, and cozy into the rustic charm with your Smoked Rye Whiskey Old Fashioned or Hazy IPA.

Gather at **Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie** to sample six tap wines or select from house specialty cocktails.

Enjoy outdoor seating & scenic riverfront views at **Frankenmuth Brewery**, Michigan's oldest microbrewery.

Toast to springtime at **Midland Brewing Company** with pints of Three Mile Marker Hefeweizen — at a picnic table, or around the fire pit!

Sip handcrafted cocktails at **Old Town Distillery by Wonder** to sample vodka, rum, whiskey, or even Moonshine.

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

Linger over artisan cocktails & light bites in the warm ambiance of **The Public House**.

Slip inside the coziest space for natural wine pours & wine-forward cocktails at **Neighbors Natural Wine & Bottle Shop**.

Gather at **Nord Social**, a Scandinavian-inspired hangout, to taste specialty cocktails infused with house-made syrups.

Grab brews, wines, and hard seltzers at **Loggers Brewing Company** while grazing on street eats from visiting food trucks.

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!

Wander into **Whichcraft Taproom** to choose from 80 craft brews, ciders, and meads — all made in Michigan — with 40 available on tap.

Soak up the spring scenery in Frankenmuth from **The Rooftop @ The Station 100**, while sipping artfully crafted cocktails & fine wines.

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

Unwind in the low-key atmosphere of **Gordie's Bar** with a seasonal, handcrafted cocktail.

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

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

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

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

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

Visit **EverNorth Spirits Co.** to taste true, community-driven whiskeys, brought to you by the Bourbon Junkies.

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

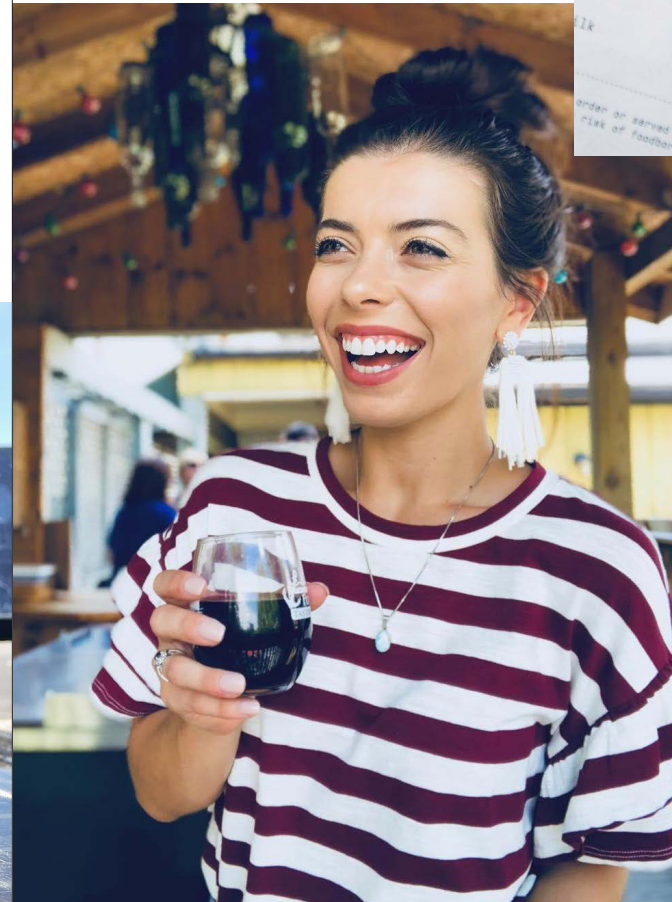
Tavern 101 – Bay City, MI



Three Bridges Distillery & Taproom – Midland, MI



Frankenmuth FunShips – Frankenmuth, MI

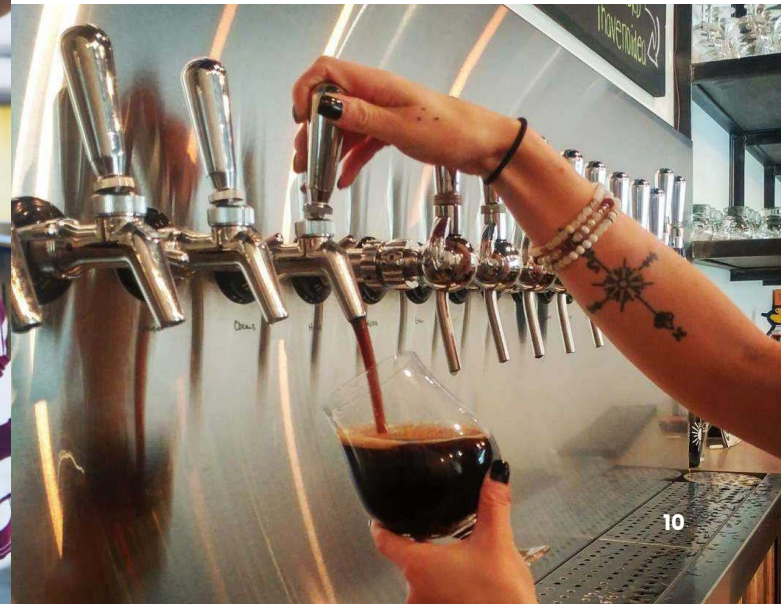


Midland Brewing Company Beer Garden – Midland, MI



The Public House – Bay City, MI

Oracle Brewing Company – Saginaw, MI





Brinstar
Midland, MI

Great Lakes Loons
Midland, MI



Real Seafood Company
Bay City, MI

Live Entertainment + Nightlife



Catch a concert or comedy show at **Midland Center for the Arts**, **The Temple Theatre**, **The Dow Event Center**, or **State Theatre of Bay City**.

Grab burgers or BBQ (and a draft craft brew) and take in a **Great Lakes Loons** Minor League Baseball game.

Don't miss a single moment of the action on the turf at a **Michigan Arsenal** Arena Football One game.

Bowl for strikes at **Stardust** before enjoying axe-throwing, four escape rooms, and **The Taproom** with 41 craft beer handles.

Stretch your fun late-night at **Brinstar**! Play pinball & video arcade games while sampling from 12 brews on tap.

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

Enjoy a fun-filled evening at **906 Lapeer**, with escape rooms, axe-throwing, indoor GellyBall, and a professional haunted house.

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

Outdoor Dining



Cozy up with tap wines & regional charcuterie by **Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie**'s outdoor fire bar, enjoy elevated tavern fare & classic cocktails in a stunning courtyard at **One eighteen**, or linger over farm-to-table dishes & wood-fired brews in a countryside setting at **The Maple Grille Restaurant & Microbrewery**.

Waterfront Dining



Savor fresh catch on the decks of **Real Seafood Company** on the Saginaw River, dine at a picnic table down by the water at **H2O's Waterside Grill**, or enjoy your brews & comfort food with river views at **Frankenmuth Brewery**.

Food Trucks



From **Makin' Bacon Truck**'s bacon mac 'n' cheese to **Bavarian Inn Cluck Truck**'s Frankenmuth chicken and **5-2-oh**'s Korean-inspired street tacos, taste what food trucks are popping up with this spring!



Top Spring Things to Do with Kids

Spend a whole weekend splashing inside two of Michigan's best indoor waterparks. 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!

Outdoors + Nature

Pack a family picnic to enjoy in **Dow Gardens'** award-winning Children's Garden and explore a canopy walk that soars four stories high through the trees!

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

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

Spend a day along the shoreline at **Bay City State Park.** Enjoy the play area and climb the observation towers overlooking **Tobico Marsh.**

Zoos + Farms

Pet Rosie the donkey & Simon the rooster at **Grandpa Tiny's Heritage Farm,** a working farm filled with hands-on experiences.

Ride the hand-carved carousel & miniature train before meeting 150 animals 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

With mini-golf, go-karts, bumper boats, laser tag, and arcade games, spring into fun at **Funway Amusements Saginaw.**

Play putt-putt while overlooking a marina at **Buoy 18 Mini Golf,** and enjoy the game room for free.

Choose between two courses at **Alpine Mountain Golf** before hopping into bumper boats & go-karts!

Golf your way around a rushing waterfall at **Dutch Village Adventure Park,** then hit the batting cages.

Tours + Experiences

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

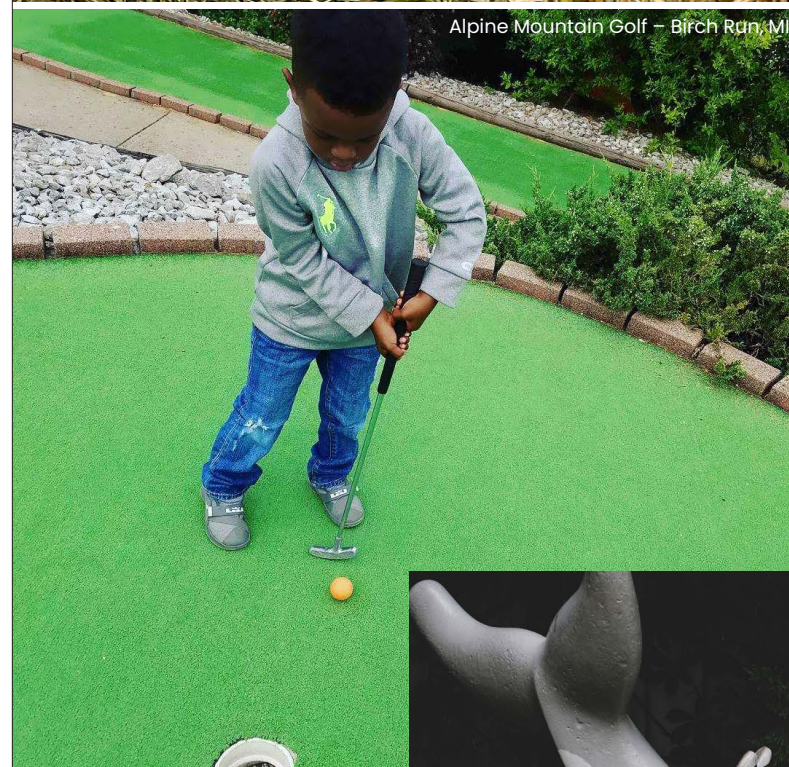
Board the **Golden Ticket Trolley** for a family ride through Frankenmuth, complete with a kid-friendly playlist.



Laugh, learn, and tinker your way through an educational adventure on our self-guided **STEM Tour.**



Grandpa Tiny's Heritage Farm – Frankenmuth, MI
Dow Gardens – Midland, MI



Alpine Mountain Golf – Birch Run, MI



Saginaw Children's Zoo – Saginaw, MI

Kid-Friendly Spring Festivals

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

Live Entertainment

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

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

Bring your crew to cheer on the **Michigan Arsenal** at an action-packed Arena Football One game.



Antique Toy and Firehouse Museum — Bay City, MI

Museums + More

Explore the amazing properties of H₂O, experiment at the Tinker Track — **Mid-Michigan Children's Museum** is filled with hands-on fun & interactive galleries!

Catch a show that's out-of-this-world at **Delta College Planetarium**, then visit the gift shop for stellar souvenirs.

Witness the world's largest collection of motorized fire trucks at the **Antique Toy and Firehouse Museum**, open in May.

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



Great Lakes Loons — Midland, MI

Kids' Shopping

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

Discover 100 stores at **Birch Run Premium Outlets**, with Go! Games & Toys for kids to Pottery Barn Outlet for parents.

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

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

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

Pop by **Bricks & Minifigs**, a buy, sell, trade, and play store filled with all-things-LEGO®!

Get lost inside a colorful, whimsical wonderland of sweets at **Tummy Ache Candy Store.**

See fudge hand-paddled at **Zak & Mac's Chocolate Haus** or **Frankenmuth Fudge Kitchen** and taffy pulled at **Frankenmuth Taffy Kitchen.**

Indoor Waterparks

Make forever memories at Michigan's biggest indoor waterpark & family fun center — **Bavarian Blast Waterpark** at the **Bavarian Inn Lodge!** Try 16 new waterslides, a wave pool, mini-golf & mini-bowling, a ropes course, and 180+ 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!

Bavarian Inn Lodge — Frankenmuth, MI



Valley Lanes — Midland, MI

Indoor Family Fun Zones

Watch the fun fly at **Urban Air Adventure Park**, with giant trampolines, climbing walls, an indoor zipline, laser tag, and two kinds of bumper cars!

Hit the bowling lanes at **Stardust**, play more than 60 video arcade games, and take on two-story laser tag!

Bring your rolls of quarters into **Crazy Quarters Arcade** and spend hours playing pinball machines & dozens of classic arcade games.

Enjoy bowling, indoor mini-golf, an arcade, bumper cars, laser tag, and a laser maze 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 soar together on wall-to-wall trampolines.

Hit the arcade at **River Place Game Room**, then find sweet rewards at **SugarHigh Bakery** or **SugarRush Sweets & Treats.**

Work together to find your way through thousands of mirrors inside the **Ultimate Mirror Maze.**

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



Bavarian Inn Castle Shops — Frankenmuth, MI

TOP SPRING FESTIVALS + EVENTS



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



Butterflies in Bloom
Dow Gardens
Midland, MI

Whether antique & artisan markets are calling your name or beer tasting & food trucks are luring you to go — fresh spring festivals & can't-miss events are right around the corner when you Go Great Lakes Bay in Michigan!

March



Butterflies in Bloom at Dow Gardens (Mar – Apr) Witness butterflies from around the globe emerging, feeding, and flying in a lush tropical environment.

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

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

Bavarian Easter Celebration (Mar – Apr)

See vibrant displays of spring flowers, colored Easter eggs, and festive decorations all throughout Frankenmuth.

Downtown Bay City Spring Shop Hop (Mar)

Hop around to quaint shops for new spring items – and join the grown-up egg hunt for a chance at the Grand Prize.

April

Excellency Music Festival (Apr)

Listen to live (emo, indie rock) bands perform inside the Historic Masonic Temple of Bay City.

Zehnder's Ragtime & Jazz Festival (Apr)

Enjoy Ragtime & Jazz music at multiple shows, with delicious menus served alongside your lively entertainment.

Bringin' Back the 80s Fest (Apr)

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

Freeland Walleye Festival (Apr)

With carnival rides, a casino, parade, and fishing tournament – celebrate with citywide rummage sales, a fish fry, and fireworks.

Shipshewana on the Road (Apr)

Shop this traveling show to find some of the most unique trinkets & treasures under the sun!

Frankenmuth Dog Bowl – Frankenmuth, MI



Butterflies in Bloom – Midland, MI



World Expo of Beer – Frankenmuth, MI



Bay City St. Patrick's Day Parade & Races – Bay City, MI

May

Cinco de Mayo Annual Parade & Festival (May)

Celebrate the largest Hispanic parade in Michigan, 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.

World Expo of Beer (May)

Experience one of Michigan's biggest beer sampling events, featuring more than 350 brews from around the globe!

The Great Lakes Market at From Buds to Blooms (May)

Discover local food trucks and listen to live musicians as you shop jewelry, art, crafts, and clothing.

Friday Fun Nights (May – Sep)

Take part every Friday as Frankenmuth comes alive with musicians & street performers!

Balloons Over Bavarian Inn (May)

Witness surreal sunrise flights as hot air balloons fill the sky, and bask in magical evening Balloon Glows.

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.

Midland Antique Festival (May)

Browse Michigan's biggest antique & vintage market – on 80 acres with over 1,000 dealers – and join in the car show & automotive swap meet.

Summer Art Fair (May)

Rain or shine in Downtown Midland, enjoy local musicians, artist booths, art activities, and fabulous food.

Bringin' Back the 80s Fest – Frankenmuth, MI

