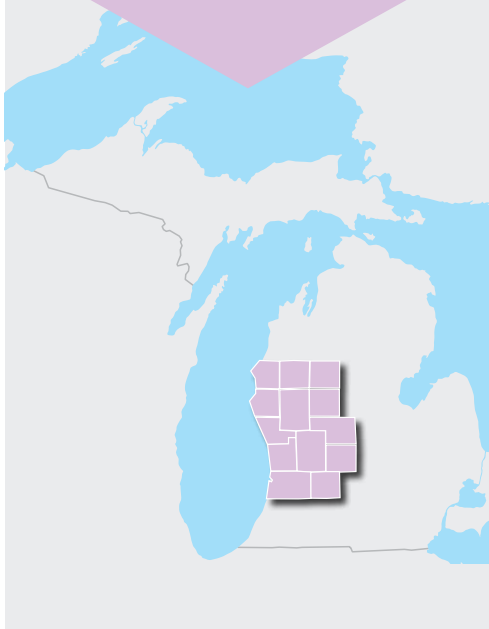


# West Michigan

With scenic Lake Michigan beaches, plenty of wooded parks, lakes, rivers and trails, West Michigan offers an unparalleled variety of seasonal outdoor activities. Grand Rapids is the state's second-largest city and the urban center of a growing region of more than one million people.

## Hey Veteran!

- Visit the USS Silversides Submarine Museum in Muskegon!
- Grand Rapids is Beer City, USA. Let's say that again...Beer City. Beer. City.
- Grand Haven is not only home of the Coast Guard Festival, it boasts a beautiful state park beach on breathtaking Lake Michigan.
- An old Navy guy named Gerald R. Ford has a museum in Grand Rapids. Bring the kids and walk the riverwalk!
- The West Michigan Veterans Coalition's Veteran Community Action Team provides seamless access to veteran services.



## Holy mackerel

- Grand Rapids was named the 13th best place to live and the second best city for raising a family.
- *Travel + Leisure* named Grand Haven as "One of the Best Secret Beaches on Earth."
- Holland was ranked as one of the happiest places to live in the U.S.
- 27,678,445,667,345 places to fish.



## Culture

- Festivals that attract international attention—ArtPrize, Tulip Time; Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, just to name a few.
- Music, Broadway and regional theater venues offer a variety of genres as well as a rich museum scene.
- The region has 14 state parks, providing an abundance of options for day hikes, backpacking and camping.



## Top employers

- Amway Corporation
- Gentex Corporation
- Meijer
- Perrigo Company
- Spectrum Health



## Good times

- Lake Michigan beach towns offer 200 miles of freshwater beaches, plus dunes and 1,300 inland lakes.
- In addition to an impressive collection of 2,000 animals, John Ball Zoo offers the only funicular in the Midwest.
- Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is one of the world's 100 most visited art museums and one of the top 30 must-see museums on the planet.
- Michigan's Adventure amusement park offers excitement for all ages with over 60 attractions.
- Sports fans will enjoy West Michigan Whitecaps baseball and Grand Rapids Griffins hockey.
- Windmill Island Gardens provides a view into the region's Dutch heritage with an authentic windmill and Dutch dancing.
- The Silver Lake Sand Dunes is the only place east of Utah where you can drive a motorized vehicle on sand dunes.



## Be more smart

- *U.S. News and World Report* ranks 14 West Michigan high schools in Michigan's top 50.
- The region is home to more than 20 colleges and universities with high ranking programs in areas ranging from engineering to cybersecurity.
- Both Baldwin and Muskegon intermediate school districts are designated as Michigan "Promise Zones," using private funds to help students earn an associate degree or certificate.



Take a closer look at West Michigan:

[www.hellowestmichigan.com](http://www.hellowestmichigan.com)

[www.michigan.org](http://www.michigan.org)

[www.mitalent.org/veteran](http://www.mitalent.org/veteran)