

Top 12 Reasons to Visit Pure Ludington



Ludington's Sandy Shoreline & Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area

Ludington offers over 8 miles of pristine sandy public beaches. The Lake Michigan shoreline actually extends for 28 miles along Mason County, part of which includes the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area, the only federally designated wilderness in Michigan's Lower Peninsula which features one of the largest tracts of unspoiled freshwater dunes in the world.



S.S. Badger Carferry

Ludington is home port to the S.S. Badger, the only steam-powered cross-lake ferry service on Lake Michigan. The Badger carries up to 620 passengers and 180 vehicles per trip between Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin mid-May through mid-October. Over 100,000 passengers ride the ferry each season.



Ludington State Park

Situated between Hamlin Lake and Lake Michigan with several miles of shoreline and beaches on both bodies of water, Ludington State Park is comprised of nearly 5,300 acres of scenic sand dunes, ponds, marshlands and forests. It is one of the most popular state parks in Michigan with over 350 campsites. The park also boasts a canoe and kayak trail, two cross-country ski trails and 18 miles of hiking trails that include a 1.5-mile path that leads to Big Sable Point Lighthouse.



Historic White Pine Village

Nestled on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, White Pine Village features a rare sampling of over 25 carefully restored or recreated buildings that preserve Mason County's long history. Guests of the village have the opportunity to "step back in time" and experience life in West Michigan in the late 1800s through exhibits, museums, special historic events and festivals.



Lighthouses

Big Sable Point Lighthouse – Built in 1867, Big Sable Point Lighthouse stands 112 feet above Lake Michigan. Visitors can tour the lighthouse and climb the tower daily from May 1st through October 31st.

North Breakwater Lighthouse – Located at the end of the north pier off Stearns Park public beach, this unique structure towers 57 feet high. Built in 1936, it replaced a wooden structure that served since 1914.



Hamlin Lake

The largest artificial lake in Michigan at nearly 5,000 acres, Hamlin Lake was created when the Sable River was dammed during the lumber boom of the late 1800s. Today it is a recreation haven with a large selection of resorts, cabins and boat rentals from which vacationers may choose.

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Great Lakes Charter Fishing

Ludington is the top fishing port on Lake Michigan. With over 65 licensed charter boats, more fishing charters originate and more trout and salmon are caught out of the port of Ludington each year than any other port in the state.

Pere Marquette River

Designated as a National Wild & Scenic River, the Pere Marquette River offers over 66 miles of clean flowing waterways. Anglers from across the nation travel to Mason County to experience the legendary steelhead and salmon runs in this river.

Lakewinds Energy Park

Mason County is already home to the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant, which is operated by Consumers Energy. The Lake Winds Energy park, a 100-megawatt facility, makes Mason County the place where “energy and the environment meet.” Located just south of Ludington, 56 V100-1.8-megawatt wind turbine generators stand, which capture and convert wind to electricity.

Manistee National Forest

The Manistee National Forest provides endless recreation opportunities for visitors. It is home to the Lake Michigan Recreation Area, a significant section of the North Country Trail (one of the nation’s premier hiking and backpacking trails), Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area and five Wild & Scenic Rivers that include the Pere Marquette, Pine and Manistee Rivers.

Waterfront Sculpture Park

Located in the midst of Ludington’s harbor front district, Waterfront Park features a harbor walk, a band shell for free concerts and events, a children’s playground and an impressive and expanding collection of original bronze sculptures celebrating Ludington’s rich heritage.

Downtown Districts

Ludington – The port city of Ludington claims a first-rate public beach, an array of public parks and a downtown district full of unique gift shops, antique and collectibles stores, art galleries and souvenir shops and abundant dining options from a fine waterfront restaurant to a retro-style ice cream parlor to a brew pub to pizza shops. A scenic waterfront walkway extends from Waterfront Park along the harbor to Stearns Park.

Scottville – The city of Scottville, a small community in the heart of Mason County, is home to West Shore Community College, Scottville Riverside Park, weekly summer concerts, the Western Michigan Old Engine Club and the world famous Scottville Clown Band. In 2003, the band celebrated 100 years of entertaining millions of music lovers across the Midwest.

