

THRIFTY TOURISTS' GUIDE TO ST. IGNACE

St. Ignace and the nearby areas offer many interesting low or no cost vacation and recreation opportunities. The criteria we use here is that a family of four could enjoy any of these suggestions for \$10.00 or less. Those which have a charge are marked with a \$

A visit to the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce (560 N. State Street) is the best place to start. The city maps mentioned above, discount coupons, brochures for lodging, dining and attractions, directions and answers to your questions are available there.

When you visit the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce, take a look at one of St. Ignace's old telephone switchboards. Our area was the last in Michigan to modernize by offering direct dial-in 1974. In fact, a local grocery store held the very last phone number "1" in the whole U.S.A. until then!

Additionally, one Mackinac County road map (per family) is available free-of-charge from the Mackinac County Road Commission (706 N. State St.), M-Th 6-4:30 from May to Oct. & M-F 7-3:30 in snowy weather.

Phone: 906-643-7333.

* = Playground Equipment

(R) = Restrooms

——— (P) = Picnic Tables

\$ = Sites/Events with a small cost

ST. IGNACE CITY PARKS

City parks offer picnic tables, lake views, rock-skipping opportunities and even some with beach-combing possibilities... or just choose a bench to relax at a lakeside park or along the Huron Boardwalk.

KEY

- American Legion Park * **(R)** **(P)** Volleyball court and horseshoe pits: bring your own ball or 'shoes
- Kiwanis Beach Park **(P)**
- Dock #3 City Park * **(R)** **(P)**
- City Marina **(R)** **(P)**
- Father Marquette Park, (corner of N. State and Marquette Streets.) Father Marquette's grave and statue... rest on a bench near the fountain...a serene little oasis.
- Chief Wawatam Park **(P)**
- For one mile along the Huron Boardwalk, there are numerous small unnamed shore accesses. **(P)**

PARKS NEAR ST. IGNACE, TAKE YOUR CAR TO:

- **Bridge View Park-** Take US-2 west 1/10 mile beyond 1-75, turn south (left) on Boulevard Drive (see red, white and blue moose on corner), drive straight to the shore. Read the amenities in Bridge-viewing section on page 5. **(R)**
- **Father Marquette National Memorial-Take** US-2 west 1/10 mile beyond 1-75, turn south (left) on Boulevard Drive (same as above) & at 2/10 of a mile, turn east (left) at the banner into the parking lot. This park has a 15-stop interpretive history/nature trail, bridge view, **(R)** **(P)**, the Father Marquette story and is the site of the annual Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow M. (weekend before Labor Day weekend)
- **Cut River Bridge-** Travel US-2, west of 1-75 for 25 miles. This bridge spans the Cut River Gorge. The roadside parks at each end of the bridge offer off-road parking, **(P)** **(R)**, walkways on and under the bridge, pitcher pumps for water (in season), nature trails and steps down to the river, then a trail along the river to Lake Michigan's sandy beach. There is also a small footbridge across the Cut River near the beach. With a picnic basket, you could spend a whole day here. Please check first for closure due to construction!

BEACHES

City Parks:

- American Legion Park * (P) (R)
- Kiwanis Beach Park (P)
- Small intermittent, unnamed beaches accessed along the Huron Boardwalk (P)
- No lifeguards at any public beaches in the area.

Take your car to:

- Lake Michigan Sand Dunes- travel west on US-2 about 10-12 miles (beyond I-75). The sandy beach stretches for miles here. Parking is permitted on the shoulder of the highway. There are no facilities, no lifeguards and no food available to buy... so bring your own picnic.
- Cut River (See page 2) SEA STACKS
- St. Anthony's Rock (see city map). The sign here will explain sea stacks and their breccia formations.
- Castle Rock- (\$) Just north of town, follow N. State St., cross over the I-75 overpass and turn right- into the parking lot. Great views from the top and say "Hi" to Paul Bunyan and Babe, the Blue Ox.
- One airport beacon light at the airport's south end is mounted upon a small sea stack.

MACKINAW BOAT EDITH JANE

- Visit Mackinaw Boat *Edith Jane*. She is located in her own small viewing building on North State Street across from the end of Central Hill Street. Her story is presented there, as well. Stop by and say "hi".

HISTORY SIGN TOUR

- This self-guided tour is available online or pick one up at the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce. It's a good way to collect an overview of more than three centuries of St. Ignace area history.

WATCHING WATERCRAFT

- Ferries
 - Freighters
 - Freight boats
 - Pleasure craft
 - There is even a Korean War era landing craft currently used for freight by the Mackinac State Historic Parks staff- watch for this dark green boat near the City Marina.
 - During July...watch for sailing yachts in the Chicago to Mackinac Race and the later Port Huron to Mackinac Race
 - Tug boats; sometimes with barges
 - Kayaks that seem to travel in packs!
 - Icebreakers and smaller U.S. Coast Guard vessels
 - Parasailing
 - Research vessels
 - At times, you may spot large voyageur canoes
 - Float boats or a float plane
 - Jet skis
 - Canoes
 - Sailboats
 - Cruise Ships
 - Tall Ships passing in stately splendor
 - Commercial fishing boats
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- Is that the U.S. Navy? No, probably the Naval Sea Cadets aboard *Pride of Michigan* (yes, this was formerly a U.S. Navy vessel)

HURON BOARDWALK

The Huron Boardwalk ribbons along the shore from Kiwanis Beach Park one mile-plus to the Wawatam Lighthouse.

- Before you start, get a free copy of the Historic St. Ignace Walking Tour booklet at the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce or Fort de Buade Museum and take a stroll through time. The booklet will guide you along the boardwalk and back along the west side of State St. The centerfold in the booklet gives amenities available along the route.
- Parking is available. At the north end, park behind the Museum of Ojibwa Culture. At the south end, use the boardwalk parking lot straight in from the lighthouse.

- Small beaches are at intervals along the way.
- Wawatam Lighthouse and old Chief Dock.
- Though not open for climbing, the lighthouse area offers great views and 2 fishing piers
- Chief Wawatam Park adjacent to the lighthouse has a fishing pier, **(P)**, park benches, human sundial, a gazebo and a splash pad & see a colorful carved wooden statue of the Chief himself.
- Enjoy the benches and the history stories on signs all along the boardwalk.
- After a visit to the Wawatam Lighthouse, you can opt to continue south through the lakeside parking lot and into American Legion Park.

MACKINAC BRIDGE VIEWING

- The only walking access to the bridge is the Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk. It can be done at no charge by leaving a second vehicle at one end.
- Bridge View Park — (directions on page 2). Inside the visitor center you'll find oodles of info including a (looping) video of the bridge's construction. The park outside offers benches, historic markers, a picnic shelter and great views. **(R) (P)**
- Recommended: after-dark viewing from here ... just breathtaking!
- Two scenic overlooks west along US-2 offer great bridge views (no facilities) at 2 1/2 and 6 miles out past I-75. **(P)**
- A no-frills view of the bridge can be had by walking down on the beach right at the end of South State St. (please respect the private property there.)
- There is a viewing site designated within Father Marquette National Memorial (see page 2)-follow signs into nature trail area.
- If you have a Michigan State Parks annual sticker, there is a viewing spot mid-park at Straits State Park (720 Church St.). For no cost, you may walk or bicycle into the state park and walk onto the beach at the park's south end, without a sticker.

FARMERS MARKET

Bayside Farmers Market will be open beside the Public Marina (at 3 S. State St.), every Thursday -- July through September from 4pm to 7pm. There will be fresh locally grown produce and other goodies.

MUSEUMS

- Museum of Ojibwa Culture...500 N. State Street...stop at the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce (next door) for a coupon which allows 10% off gift shop purchases. Museum admission is free (donations most welcome). Hours are: Daily 9am-8pm (summer hours). For info: (906) 643-6076 on Facebook or museumofojibwaculture.net
- Fort de Buade...334 N. State St. Free admission (donations most welcome). Summer hours are: Tuesday thru Saturday 10am to 6pm. For info www.fortdebaude.com or on Facebook. (906)-643 -6627

ST. IGNACE PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Computers to use at no charge.
- Wireless access with your laptop, even outside during open hours.
- Annual Labor Day Used Book & Bake Sale
- A cart full of used books always on sale for a very low price \$.
- Summer Reading Program: for schedule, phone (906) 643-8318
- Open hours: M & F 9am-5pm, Tues & Wed & Thurs 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-3pm
- Address: 110 West Spruce St. (corner of Business Loop-75)

BAYSIDE LIVE! AND LOCALS ON THE BAY

- Free concerts right out on the main dock at the St. Ignace City Marina- Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7pm. BAYSIDE LIVE! Thursdays in July and August. LOCALS ON THE BAY Wednesday concerts through July and August.

MOVIES BY THE BAY

Free outdoor family movies will be shown in American Legion Park at dusk Sunday evenings in July through Labor Day. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy Movies by the Bay. Courtesy of St. Ignace Special Events Committee with free popcorn for all!
(There will be a concession on site - selling food, snacks and beverages.)

GUIDED WALKING TOUR

U.P. Storyteller Onnalee Gibson will weave together St. Ignace history and tales as you walk along the Huron Boardwalk, Monday & Tuesday evenings at 7pm, July & August. For info, stop at the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce or phone us at (906) 643-8717.

DISC GOLF

Play disc golf at Niiwin Endaasing (Four Winds) located 5 miles west of I-75 on Cheeseman Road at the corner of US-2. Open dawn to dusk. Bring your own discs to play one of the top 10 courses in Michigan.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

At the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, in July & August, learn local history as Native Elders present cultural teachings and traditions. Children are welcome to create a special craft. Each week features an exhibiting artist, author, storyteller, historical presenter or musician. Join us from 6pm to 7:30pm.

REAL STREET THEATER

Saturdays at 7pm, in July & August, downtown will be the site of Buskermania and Tommy Tropic's providing juggling, magic, music, sword swallowing, clowns, escape artists, and balloon benders.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Native American Festival Memorial Day weekend's Saturday at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, enjoy demonstrations, music, dancing, drumming, and crafts for children & adults — 10am to 5pm.
- Antiques on the Bay Car Show On the next to last Saturday of June, at the City Marina.
- St. Ignace Car Show The last Saturday in June. Preceding the car show, the Kewadin Cruise is on Thursday and the Down Memory Lane Parade on Friday.
- Fourth of July. At 1pm, the annual Ruby Goudreau parade begins. At 2pm in Dock #3 City Park, the fire department will offer a free picnic and Kiwanis will host games for children with fireworks at dusk downtown.
- St. Ignace Heritage Days This mid-July event centers at our two historical museums; Museum of Ojibwa Culture and Fort de Buade Museum. Details are too numerous to present here, please see schedule on Chamber website saintignace.org or www.fortdebuade.com.
- MINI on the Mack See these interesting cars cross the Mackinac Bridge through our downtown to stage at Little Bear East Arena, the first Saturday in August every other summer.

- Arts and Crafts Dockside. Crafts and unique hand-made items available to buy or browse at the beautiful St. Ignace City Marina Saturday & Sunday of Labor Day weekend. **(R)**
(P)
- Owosso Tractor Parts Antique Tractor Show. Tractors will be in town the next Friday & Saturday after Labor Day weekend. On Friday, these farm tractors will begin their procession from Mackinaw City, crossing the Mackinac Bridge mid-day. In an hours-long rally they pass through St. Ignace via our main street. Find a spot anywhere along State Street to view a rainbow of tractors and big smiles from the drivers...cheer them on... it's FUN! Tractors will be on display through Friday evening and on Saturday at Little Bear Arena. Antique Snowmobiles await you, inside Little Bear Arena for this same weekend.
- The Richard Crane Memorial Truck Show. Big rigs and other trucks gleam at Little Bear East Arena and along the closed-for-the-show North State Street, the second weekend after Labor Day weekend. See the big boys parade across the Mackinac Bridge dressed in their entrancing lights Saturday night. Also, the Peddle Car Show at Little Bear East.

FISHING WITH KIDS

- Fishing platforms at Wawatam Lighthouse and Chief Wawatam Park.
- Fishing at the mouth of the Carp River. Head north on 1-75 to exit #352 (M-123) or travel north along Mackinac Trail to M-123 intersection. Turn north (left from M-123) (or continue straight north if you are on Mackinac Trail already), drive 4 miles. You will be at an 1-75 overpass — turn right on Carp River Road (a gravel road which is parallel to and just before 1-75) — sorry, no road sign here (almost adjacent is Gorman Road...paved). Drive 4/10 of a mile on the gravel road to US Forest Road #3127 (paved) turn right. Stay on pavement 1 mile. Pavement ends near boat launch (launch ramps aren't paved... for small boats only). Continue into gravel parking circle 1/10 mile to (R-rustic). This fishing site is rated as barrier-free so take concrete sidewalk to pier. You can cook the fish you catch right here at 2 fire pits (bring your own firewood or charcoal). You may also walk along and fish from a short footpath by the river just north of the pier. Bring your own bait and tackle... and maybe lawn chair(s) and a picnic, as well.

Thank you for taking ALL your trash home (no trash receptacles here).

- Another possibility: after you turn on US Forest Road #3127, travel 9/10 mile and turn right on unnamed/unnumbered road to another small boat launch into Lake Huron (R-rustic). You will have to carry your boat a few yards and the shore here is quite soft (mucky)...maybe boots are in order?

- Castle Rock Fishing Ponds. Four stocked ponds to fish in from the wilderness shore. Follow State St. north and cross over the 1-75 overpass. Turn left almost immediately into West Lant Road, drive 1/10 mile, turn right on US Forest Road #3104 (Castle Rock Road. You will be turning right just before a 'dead end' sign.) Drive 2.7 miles and turn left on unnumbered US Forest Road — you will see the first pond right away. You choose which of the four ponds you want. These ponds require a regular fishing license but no admission charge: no facilities, no food concession — and — bring your own tackle and bait. Enjoy the quiet and solitude.
- **All sites included above require licensing as mandated by the State of Michigan.**
- State of Michigan Free Fishing Weekend , second weekend in June, (June 10-11, 2017) allows any person to fish without a license on these two days. However, all other State fishing laws apply.
- Kids' Free Fishing Day allows children to fish at no cost- no license required-at Castle Rock Ponds the second Saturday in June . Details available (906) 643-8717.
- Thank you for NOT fishing from the St. Ignace City Marina piers.
- Fish Cleaning Station located at boat launch (**R**), Stockbridge and Hazelton Streets, and at Dock #3, City Park.

MOTORCYCLES ON THE MAC

Celebrating motorcycles of all makes. Find a spot along our main street in the downtown to watch them pass by with their handsome LED lights.

FIREWORKS

Pyrotechnics light up Saturdays at dusk, starting on July 4 and each Saturday thru Labor Day. Viewing is all along the waterfront through downtown. Displays will be shot off above Lake Huron straight out from Kiwanis Beach Park.

ACTIVITIES AT LITTLE BEAR EAST ARENA

For details of events at the arena www.Saintignace.org or www.littlebeararena.com

WINTER EVENTS

Being a spectator does not end in September-there are winter events to entertain. Playing on the ice of Lake Huron are the:

- U.P. Championship Pond Hockey
- Bowling
- U.P. Ice Chip Golf
- U.P. Youth Pond Hockey

HIKING- ORV/ATV — BICYCLING — DRIVING & COLOR TOURS — SKIING — SNOWMOBILING — GREAT LAKES CIRCLE TOURS — GREAT WATERS TOURS- BIRDWATCHING - LIGHTHOUSES

Please visit the St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce as the details of these activities are too numerous to post here.

PICNICS, PICNICS, PICNICS

How many different places can you find to have a great picnic?

And one more thing....

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Help the kids send a postcard to Grandma or Grandpa. (\$) Our post office is located at 310 S. State St. Hours are M-F 9-4:30 and Saturdays 9-11. Regular postcards cost \$.34 for postage.

ST. IGNACE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONTACT INFORMATION



St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce
560 N. State Street
St. Ignace, MI. 49781
Phone: 906-643-8717 / 800-970-8717
Fax: 906-643-9380

Web Address: www.saintignace.org

[Email: sichamber@lighthouse.net](mailto:sichamber@lighthouse.net)

Facebook: [saintignacechamberofcommerce](https://www.facebook.com/saintignacechamberofcommerce)