Day Trip Itineraries...

Alpena is considered the hub of a tranquil region. Many visitors use Alpena as their base camp and venture out to enjoy day trips to the outreaches of Northeast Michigan. This brochure presents some fun-filled suggestions to get you started.



Paul Bunyan and Babe the blue ox keep watch over the Ossineke area, just south of Alpena.



Summer fun can be had all across Northeast Michigan. Photo courtesy, Allison Modrzynski.



As the Sanctuary of the Great Lakes, Alpena truly embodies the haven from the stresses of everyday life. The culturally rich place to relax, rejuvenate, and inspire the happy, healthy, creative you!



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Sanctuary of the Great Lakes

Day Trip Ideas



Ossineke

1. Paul Bunyan

US-23 South / Nicholson Hill Road

Two legendary statues stand in the heart of Ossineke at the blinking light. Babe the ox, built in 1938 by Walter Hayden, was originally placed on the hill across from Lookout Inn, following legend that a white cow on a hill signified good luck. In 1950 new owners painted Babe blue. Babe's companion Paul was built in 1953 by Paul Domke, creator of the nearby Dinosaur Gardens.

2. Dinosaur Gardens

1160 US 23 South, Ossineke

Wander through this world renowned prehistoric garden to discover over 26 life-size dinosaurs tucked away in the forest. This unique experience includes 18 -hole mini golf course, a souvenir shop and snack bar.

Harrisville

1. Craftmakers Cabin

217 N. State Street, Harrisville

Built in 1937, this historic cabin is now home to a gallery of local treasures including handcrafted items, folk art, honey, maple syrup and much more.

2. Alcona Quilt Trail

www.alconaquilttrail.com

Follow the Alcona Quilt Trail through rolling farmland and along Lake Huron's coast. 28 unique 8 x 8 ft painted quilt blocks adorn historic barns, parks, churches, and other unexpected places.

The New Presque Isle Lighthouse, a sentinel on the shore of Lake Huron in Presque Isle. Have fun walking the trails to the lake and climbing the tower. On a clear day, you can see Canada.

Presque Isle

1. Grand Lake's Ghost Village of Bell

5 miles East of US-23 on Grand Lake Hwy Located 15 miles north of Alpena in Presque Isle, Bell was

built in the 1870's during the Presque Isle Brick and Lumber Company era. Today a foot trail follows the old road that used to loop around the small peninsula at the edge of the bay. You can still find the cemetery, a stone chimney, collapsed walls, stand of virgin white pine, and other remaining bits of a long abandoned village. This location also features one of Michigan's most pristine, secluded sandy beaches on Lake Huron. Pack a picnic lunch and spend an afternoon rejuvenating here.

2. New Presque Isle Lighthouse 4500 East Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle

Located on the Lake Huron shoreline near Presque Isle, the New Presque Isle Light is the tallest accessible tower on the Great Lakes and offers a spectacular view. Explore the grounds that include a fully restored 1905 Keeper's house, gift shop, playground, picnic area, and nature trails.

3. Old Presque Isle Lighthouse 5295 E. Grand Lake Rd., Presque Isle

Climb the hand-hewn stone steps of one of the oldest surviving lighthouses on the Great Lakes and enjoy a panoramic view of the Lake Huron shoreline and Presque Isle Harbor.



Hillman

1. Fletcher Floodwater

Fletcher Pond is part of the upper south branch of the Thunder Bay River and known for its monster pike, bass, walleye, and panfish. Formerly a large cedar swamp, the 8,970 acre pond is shallow and full of stumps and floating logs, perfect for fishing.

2. Brush Creek Mill

121 S. Hillman Street, Hillman

Located in the heart of Hillman on the Thunder Bay River, this museum was built near the sites of some of the area's first lumber mills. Brush Creek Mill offers a variety of displays, events, and activities.

3. Thunder Bay Resort

27800 M-32 Hillman

Travel through the forest in a carriage drawn by draft horses on a journey to enjoy wine tasting, elk viewing, and a gourmet dinner. This resort also features an 18-hole championship golf course, fishing, and trails.

Onaway

1. Ocqueoc Falls

M-68, Onaway

"Waw-waugh-waugh-que-noc" (meaning sacred waters) was the name given by Native Americans to this beautiful river that is now called Ocqueoc. This hidden gem contains the largest falls in the Lower Peninsula, with four small rapids and a pool for splashing. Ocqueoc Falls is also the first truly universally accessible waterfall in the nation.