

LUDINGTON AREA

Visitors Guide

THE ORIGINAL VISITORS GUIDE SINCE 1991



**What to Do • Where to Stay
Dining • Services • Shopping • Weddings
Maps & Much More!**

VISITLUDINGTON.COM

2021 CONTENTS

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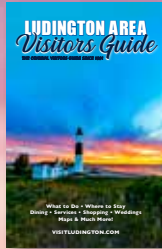
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"DAY 152 OF 366"

Our cover photo was captured by Brad Reed and will be included in the soon-to-be published book, "366 Days of Beauty in the Year 2020."



ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION

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LUDINGTON AREA VISITORS GUIDE

Celebrating 30 Years!

Advantage Marketing published our first edition of the Ludington Area Visitors Guide in 1991. Our goal has always been to provide you with a compact magazine that highlights the best places to eat, play, and stay. Here we are in 2021, and though many things have changed in our friendly town, one thing has not. The Ludington area is still one of the best vacation destinations along Lake Michigan. We welcome you to experience the fun and beauty for yourself.

We owe our advertisers our utmost gratitude, as their participation keeps the Ludington Area Visitors Guide thriving. Many of these businesses have been doing business with us for 30+ years, so they feel like family to us. Please support them by using their services, eating in their restaurants, and shopping in their stores. Your patronage means a lot to us and to them.

We're happy you chose to visit Ludington and we hope you get that "Love Ludington" feeling that keeps you coming back. Welcome friends— we're glad you're here. 🍷

LUDINGTON AREA VISITORS GUIDE

Published locally by Advantage Marketing & Publications, Inc. of Ludington. ©2021

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Photo by Todd Reed



While the staff of Advantage Marketing celebrates our 30th year of producing the Ludington Area Visitors Guide, we also think it's the perfect time to celebrate the photographers who have graced our publication with such beautiful images of our area. We have been fortunate to collaborate with Todd Reed during all 30 years of our Visitors Guide, and we are thrilled to announce his new book which celebrates Todd's 50 years of photography.

Todd Reed 50 YEARS SEEING MICHIGAN THROUGH A LENS

The title of Todd's newly published book gives the reader a glimpse of what's inside: 50 years of Michigan's beauty in a uniquely showcased photography art book. The book explores Todd Reed's life - first through his eyes as a highly acclaimed photojournalist, then as a distinguished Coast Guardsman, and since 1975 as one of Michigan's best-known award-winning outdoor photographers. Travel along with Todd as he recalls stories and recollections of family and friends as he worked four careers simultaneously to eventually attain his goal as a full-time photographer and gallery owner. Discover Michigan's four seasons as he displays his favorite scenes from across our great state and invites you to share in his memories. ⚓

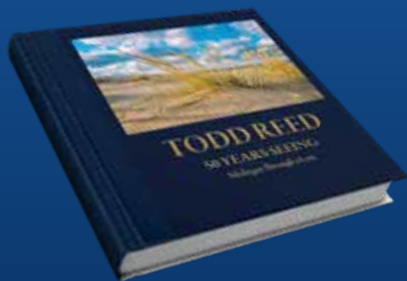




Todd Reed
"Day 171 of 365"

BOOK HIGHLIGHTS

- 384 pages of beauty!
- 67 NEW images from Todd's 50th year of shooting in 2020.
- Roughly 385 fine art images from all around Michigan.
- Learn how Todd became the photographer he is today through his four life chapters showcased in the book: Finding My Way, History in a Hurry, Semper Paratus, and Capturing God's Light.
- New longer stories behind Todd's favorite images over the 50 years.
- 22 recollections from Todd's family and friends.



Todd's new book is available online at ToddandBradReed.com and may also be purchased from the Todd and Brad Reed Photography Gallery at 114 West Ludington Avenue.



"Pink Impression"



"Star Light"



"Badger Bingo"

While the 2020 Visitors Guide was being delayed due to the pandemic, and events were being cancelled with no certain dates for the future, our Advantage Marketing team formulated a plan to replace the magazine's calendar pages with a surplus of stunning photographs to make our 2021 Ludington Area Visitors Guide an extra special edition. Our goal coincided nicely with a project being worked on by local photographers, Brad Reed and Rachel Gaudette, and we have included some of their new images throughout our magazine.

During the calendar year of 2020, Brad and Rachel each made a daily image to showcase the beauty of our area for their upcoming book. The book is currently in production and is scheduled for a fall 2021 release. ⚓

366 DAYS OF *Beauty* IN THE YEAR 2020

BY BRAD REED AND RACHEL GAUDETTE



Background Photo by Brad Reed
"Day 37 of 366"



NEW BOOK COMING SOON

"366 Days of Beauty in the Year 2020"

Brad Reed and Rachel Gaudette's new book will include 732 images made during the pandemic.

Book cover may change.

Rachel Gaudette "Day 141 of 366"



Brad Reed "Day 145 of 366"



Rachel Gaudette "Day 358 of 366"





Ludington's S.S. BADGER CARFERRY

Our town is known for great beaches and the #1 state park in the Midwest, but nothing says “Ludington” more than our beloved S.S. Badger carferry.

This 410' ship carries up to 600 passengers and 180 vehicles between Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin during a relaxing four-hour cruise. Passengers can play Badger Bingo, soak up some sun on the deck, or enjoy food and beverage from two restaurants and a full service bar.

The S.S. Badger is the largest carferry to ever sail the Great Lakes, and the last coal-fired passenger steamship in operation in the United States. First entered into service in 1953, the Badger was originally designed to transport railroad cars. In 1992, she was transformed into a passenger ship which also ferries vehicles and commercial trucks.

In December of 2020, the S.S. Badger was purchased by Interlake Maritime Services, a company with over a century of experience in maritime transportation. This ensures that Ludington's beloved carferry will continue to cruise Lake Michigan for years to come. 📍

BEST PLACES TO WATCH THE CARFERRY

Waterfront Park • North Breakwater Lighthouse Pier
Stearns Park Beach • the Channel Walkway

See our downtown map on pages 32-33 for location info.



[VisitLudington.com/Carferry](https://www.visitludington.com/Carferry)

Photos by Todd Reed and Brad Reed



Dining

CROWN AND CORK

502 W. Loomis St., Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 425-3557

The Crown and Cork is a must visit! This trendy new restaurant has a relaxed vibe and boasts a one-of-a-kind waterfront view and unique menu items like beer battered cauliflower and salt roast beets. You're sure to have an experience you won't soon forget!

crownncork.com

DUNE GRASS CONCESSIONS

In the Lake Michigan Beach House
Ludington State Park
(231) 843-1888

Take a scenic drive to the Ludington State Park for some tasty treats that satisfy. Within the park gates, turn left to the Lake Michigan Beach House. Concessions in the beach house lower level include pizza, hamburgers, chicken strips, hot dogs, and hand-dipped ice cream. Tasty food, and the best beach views ever!

dunegrassludington.com



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jamesportbrewingcompany.com

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lucianosristoranti.com

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ludingtonmancinos.com

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110 N. Main, Scottville, MI 49454
(231) 757-3993

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northcountrycafe.com

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oldhamlin.com

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ramsdellinn.net

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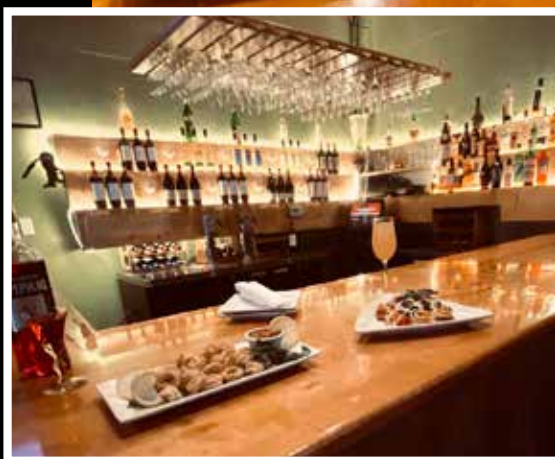
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IT'S A Beach Day!

Who doesn't love hearing those four words! Ludington has the best beaches and so many to choose from! Our beaches are clean and parking is free.

Stearns Park **1** is an all-time favorite for its sandy beach, concession stands, restrooms, mini-golf, skate plaza, and the iconic North Breakwater Light. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the beach utilizing three handicap accessible walkways that lead from the sidewalk down to the shoreline.

One destination, two beaches—that's the Ludington State Park! **7** The Lake Michigan side has a Beach House where you'll find concessions, restrooms, exhibits, and an expansive deck to sit and relax.

If you prefer warmer, calmer waters, head on over to the Hamlin Lake beach side. There you will find a fun-filled playground for the kids, and you can rent canoes, kayaks, and SUPs.

Take your furry friend to the other beaches on South Lakeshore Drive. Buttersville **10** and Summit Parks **9** both have lovely beaches, and your dog is welcome to romp in the cool waters of Lake Michigan.

The spectacular sunsets in Ludington are a must see. Everyone flocks to the beach to watch as the sun disappears into Lake Michigan. Keep your camera handy to capture the vibrant colors of the sky—a must-have memento from your visit. 🏖️

* Some facilities may not be available to non-campers.

LOCATOR NUMBER	MOST POPULAR AREA PARKS	BEACH	PICNIC AREA	GRILLS	BOAT LAUNCH	FISHING	EXPANDED PLAYGROUND	SWING SET ONLY	RESTROOM	HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE WALKWAY	PET FRIENDLY
PARKS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS											
1	STEARNS PARK	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	
2	COPEYON PARK		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
3	WATERFRONT PARK		•			•	•		•	•	•
4	ROTARY PARK		•						•	•	•
5	MEMORIAL TREE PARK		•	•	•			•	•		•
6	*CARTIER PARK		•	•	•	•	•		•		•
PARKS OUTSIDE THE CITY											
7	*LUDINGTON STATE PARK	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
8	SUTTON'S LANDING		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
9	SUMMIT PARK	•	•	•		•	•		•		•
10	*BUTTERSVILLE PARK	•	•	•		•			•		•
HAMLIN LAKE											
11	VICTORY PARK		•	•	•	•		•	•		•
12	WILSON HILL PARK		•	•	•	•			•		•
13	SOUTH BAYOU PARK		•	•	•	•		•	•		•
14	LONG SKINNY PARK		•	•		•					•
SCOTTVILLE - 8 MILES EAST OF LUDINGTON											
15	SCOTTVILLE RIVERSIDE PARK		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•

PICK A *Park!*

Summer is the perfect time to head to a local park and feel the coolness of the grass under your bare feet. The Ludington area has 15 parks for you to enjoy.

Bring your kids and your pets—there are playgrounds, picnic areas and grills at most of the parks.

Six parks are within the city limits, including Stearns Park ① and its expansive beach—and Waterfront Park ③ with its nine bronzed sculptures.

In July of 2020, a Splash Pad opened in Copeyon Park. ② This outdoor play area has permanent sprinklers and fountains for interactive water play.

The four parks outside the city limits have beaches or Pere Marquette River access, and three out of four parks on Hamlin Lake feature boat launches. ④

Both large and small dogs can run free in the fenced-in area at Central Bark, located behind Cartier Park.



PET FRIENDLY





Things to Do

BOAT RENTALS ON HAMLIN LAKE



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& Tackle
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Pontoon & Fishing
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www.WatersideResort.com

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colonialgolfhart.com

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State Park, Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 843-1888

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dunegrassludington.com

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(231) 843-4808

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masoncountymihistory.org

LUDINGTON AREA JAYCEES MINI GOLF

900 W. Ludington Ave., Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 843-4663

Renovated in 2017, the Ludington Area Jaycees Mini Golf Course has 18 holes dedicated to the "Landmarks of Ludington." Putt-putt for a purpose as profits from the course are donated back to community enrichment projects and organizations. Open noon-9pm daily, Memorial Day-Labor Day. Owned by the local Jaycees organization.

jaycesminigolf.com

PORT OF LUDINGTON MARITIME MUSEUM

217 S. Lakeshore Dr., (next to the Coast Guard Station), Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 843-4808

Celebrate and remember Ludington's rich maritime history at the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, where visitors will be entertained and enlightened with interactive exhibits and virtual experiences. Located within a former US Coast Guard Station, the museum is a landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and opened in 2017.

masoncountymihistory.org

RIVER RUN CANOE LIVERY

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Come paddle the scenic Pere Marquette, an easy flowing river for the whole family. Featuring Old Town kayaks, double kayaks, 3 seat canoes with cup holders and a cooler, tubes, and 4 person rafts. Equipment cleaned daily and we offer a variety of trips. Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm.

riverruncanoerental.com



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ssbadger.com

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sandcastleschildrensmuseum.com

Event Schedule at www.WestShore.edu
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(231) 845-5002

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sunsetbluffresort.com

WATERSIDE RESORT & BOAT RENTALS
3298 N. Lakeshore Dr., Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 843-2090

Family-friendly fun on Lower Hamlin Lake! Rent a pontoon boat for pleasure or fishing. Also 14' and 16' fishing boats with 8 hp to 25 hp motors. Our store has live bait, tackle, outboard gas, fishing licenses, and picnic supplies. Also cottages for rent on the lake!
watersideresort.com

Visit the New
Value of Sports Museum
 Located at Historic
 White Pine Village
valueofsports.org

Beyond the Game
THE VALUE OF SPORTS



A LEGACY ON THE LAKE
since 1953

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ssbadger.com

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A self-guided exploration of pioneer living in the late 19th-early 20th century.

With over 30 exhibits in buildings such as a One-Room Schoolhouse, Blacksmith, and Farmhouse.

Come meet the Pioneers, Memorial Day-Labor Day.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MASON COUNTY



Historic
WHITE
PINE
VILLAGE

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~~ Where History Is Fun! ~~



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MASON COUNTY



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LUDINGTON
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MUSEUM

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Pilot a
simulated
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MasonCountyMiHistory.org



Ludington's TOP EVENTS

There are many things that make Ludington a popular destination, and our events top the list. Musical performances, parades, festivals, and art fairs promise fun for the entire family. Due to the pandemic, many events were yet to be finalized as we prepared to print the Ludington Area Visitors Guide. For the most current calendar of events, please visit our website at VisitLudington.com/Events for details.

Music

The Summer Live Music Series is held Thursday evenings in the all-new Legacy Plaza in downtown Ludington. Local performers entertain with a variety of music, and it's free! Grab a take-out dinner from a nearby restaurant and make an evening of it. West Shore Bank is the proud sponsor of two Rhythm & Dunes concerts every summer at Waterfront Park. Whether the bands play 70s rock, dance hits, or favorite beach tunes, the park comes alive with music and fun! Downtown Ludington's Final Friday Experience features live music on the final Friday night of each summer month.

Festivals

The July 4th Freedom Festival, sponsored by the Ludington Area Jaycees, is the biggest festival of the year, with an afternoon parade and evening fireworks display to bring out the patriotism in everyone. Taste Michigan-made beer at the Suds on the Shore Craft Beer Festival in August and Brrewfest in January. Enjoy the beauty of Ludington at one of our Sunset Beach Bonfires at Stearns Park, held the last Thursday of June, July and August. The Lighted Ball Drop is a great way to usher in the New Year, right here in downtown Ludington.

Art Fairs

You're guaranteed to find a treasure or two at the West Shore Art Fair or the Gold Coast Art Fair, both held during the summer in Rotary Park. 📍

Photos by Todd Reed
Background Photo by Brad Reed

Here are a few of our 2021 events.
See the full calendar at:
VisitLudington.com/Events

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& DUNES**

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rhythmanddunes.com

StageLeftMi.org
5th Annual
Stratford on the Avenue
Theatre Festival
August 6-8 at Rotary Park

New Year's Eve Ball Drop



Sunset Beach Bonfire



Waterfront Park Concert





Experience LUDINGTON STATE PARK

Named the #1 State Park in the Midwest, and for good reason! Within its 5,300 acres is everything you could desire in a fun and relaxing vacation. Soak up the sun in front of the Lake Michigan Beach House, tube down the Sable River, or play in the sand at Hamlin Beach. The park has an amazing diversity of terrain which can be explored while hiking shorelines, sand dunes, hardwood forests, and marshlands. Eight miles of marked trails allow you to experience wildlife in its truest form. You'll likely spot a fox or deer, and maybe an eagle soaring across the sky above.



Come enjoy all that the Ludington State Park has to offer year-round. Weekly summertime programs within the park feature musicians, magic shows, and animal exhibitions. The park is even open in the winter for guided snowshoe walks and cross-country skiing. 📍

Photos by Todd Reed, Brad Reed, and Rachel Gaudette





PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Big Sable Point Lighthouse where one can climb to the top for a breathtaking view.
- Nearly seven miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, with beaches extending into the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area.
- Hamlin Lake Dam with handicap accessible hard surface walkways.
- Hamlin Lake Beach, featuring a play ground, picnic areas, grills, pavilion, concessions, and restrooms. Rent rowboats, canoes, and kayaks.
- 18 miles of eight marked hiking trails with information kiosks.
- Lake Michigan Beach House with concessions, restrooms, veranda, outside patio, and exhibits.
- Big Sable River, which winds through the park and is a favorite place to tube.



LUDINGTON STATE PARK TRAIL MAP

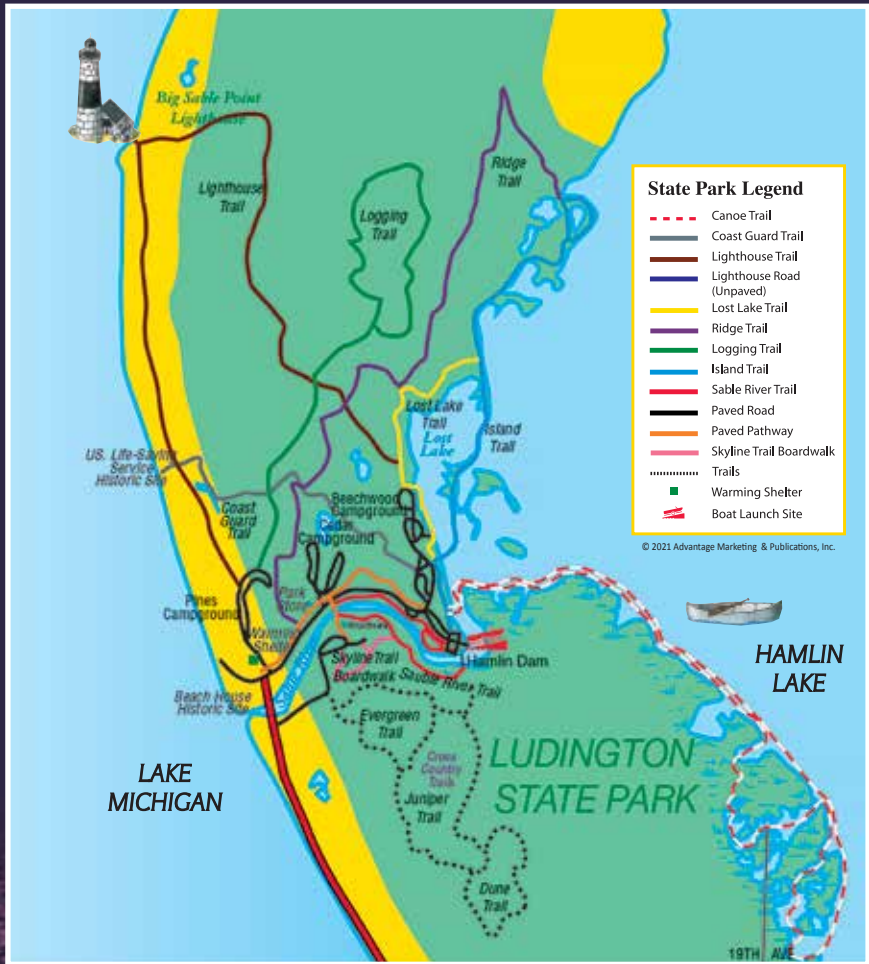


Photo by Todd Reed

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Pick Your SCENIC TRAIL...

Skyline: .5 miles, 30 minutes walking.

This completely elevated trail features an extensive boardwalk system. From the top of the trail, view Lake Michigan and miles of sand dunes.

Sable River: 1 mile, 30 minutes walking.

This relaxing walk goes across the Hamlin Dam and can accommodate people in wheelchairs. Interpretive panels point out historic sites.

Lost Lake: 1.5 miles, 1 hour walking.

Circling a watery cove off Hamlin Lake, it loops around, beginning and ending at Hamlin Lake Beach Concessions. Wildlife is seen in abundance so keep your eyes open!

Coast Guard: 1.5 miles, 1 hour walking.

Winding through the wooded dunes from the Lake Michigan Beach, this trail has one of the earliest Life Saving Stations on Lake Michigan.

Lighthouse: 3 miles, 2 hours walking.

Starting at the Beechwood Campground, walk through rolling sand dunes and end at Big Sable Point Lighthouse. The Lighthouse Road is a shorter, 1.8 mile walk from the main entrance parking lot and can be traversed in about 40 minutes.

Logging: 3 miles, 2.5 hours walking.

This historic trail loops around, beginning and ending at the north end of the Pines Campground and features plenty of shade.

Ridge & Island: 4 miles, 3 hours walking.

The Island Trail follows the sandy shoreline of Hamlin Lake, and the Ridge Trail follows the top of a tall wooded sand dune.

South End Ski: 6 miles, 3 hours walking.

Located in the southern part of the park, these are actually three looped trails tied together. They weave through sand dune valleys of thick jack pines and wetlands.

Canoe: 2-4 hours.

Enter Hamlin Lake near the beach area. Traveling close to the south shore, enjoy swampy areas, marshlands, and wildlife.



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A *View* FROM ABOVE

Breathtaking, isn't it? This aerial photo highlights the area of land known as Big Sable Point, which includes Hamlin Lake, Ludington State Park, the Ludington harbor, and miles of gorgeous fresh water coast. It's such a beautiful playground for all to enjoy! To learn more about these locations around Big Sable Point, visit our website for details. ↕

Photo by Brad Reed

[VisitLudington.com/FromAbove](https://www.visitludington.com/FromAbove)

1

2

3

4

18

- 1 Big Sable River
- 2 Indian Pete Bayou
- 3 The Narrows
- 4 North Bayou
- 5 Middle Bayou
- 6 South Bayou
- 7 Lincoln Lake
- 8 Ludington Harbor
- 9 Stearns Park Beach

- 10 Epworth Heights
- 11 First Curve
- 12 Sargent Sand Company
- 13 Hamlin Lake Dam
- 14 Ludington State Park Gate
- 15 Big Sable River Outlet
- 16 Lake Michigan Beach House
- 17 Big Sable Point Lighthouse
- 18 Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area

Locations start in the upper left and run clockwise



Visit our website:
HamlinLake.com

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LOST LAKES

NURNBERG RD.

Wilson Hill Memorial Park

THE NARROWS

INDIAN PETE BAYOU

1 6

SHAGWAY

EHLER RD.

BIG SABLE POINT

LOWER HAMLIN

NORTH BAYOU

HAMLIN LAKE

18

LUDINGTON STATE PARK

MIDDLE BAYOU

MAVIS RD.

4

3

Ludington State Park

Long Skinny Park

SABLE RIVER

HAMLIN DAM

DEWEY RD.

17

South Bayou Park

SOUTH BAYOU

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STEARN'S CULVER RD.

LINCOLN RD.

SHERMAN RD.

JEBAY DR.

LAKE MICHIGAN

5

LAKESHORE DR.

DECKER RD.

2

4 MILES TO LUDINGTON

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north of
Ludington

Hamlin Lake

At more than 12 miles long and 5,000 acres large, Hamlin Lake has plenty of space for everyone. Whether you're looking for quiet solitude or wild adventure, you'll find it here—with scenic sand dunes, bayous, mini-parks and appealing resorts.

Boaters can use a public launch, or visit one of the small marinas for boat rentals, gas and supplies. Fishing is terrific, with an outstanding supply of walleye, bass, perch, muskie, pike, and bluegill.

This man-made lake originated during the logging era when lumbermen dammed the Big Sable River to make a holding pond for felled trees. The Hamlin Lake Dam is located inside Ludington State Park, where a hard surface walkway provides handicap access across the dam and on both sides of the Sable River.

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- 17 WATERSIDE RESORT & BOAT RENTALS**
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- 18 WILLOW-BY-THE-LAKE RESORT**
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HamlinLake.com

Discover DOWNTOWN LUDINGTON



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OUR MARITIME & LUMBERING *History*

Ludington has such an interesting history, from its early days as a lumbering community to the many carferries that made this city their home port.

Early Settlers

James Ludington was a prominent businessman in 1854, obtaining property and running a sawmill. Naturally, our city honors James Ludington, and many of the local streets bear the names of his siblings. A drive along Ludington Avenue brings history to the forefront, as the grand homes of former lumbermen still stand today, many of which are now bed and breakfasts.

Another influential figure in Ludington's history was Justus Stearns. He started both the Stearns Lighting & Power and the Salt & Lumber Companies—and both Stearns Park and Stearns Hotel are named after him. He and his wife also opened the first hospital in town.

Deckhands remove ice from this ship in 1940



Shown entering the Ludington harbor, the Schooner Rosa Belle was built in 1863 and sank in a storm in 1921



The Pere Marquette #4 stuck in ice in 1920



Nine carferries in Ludington harbor at one time - 1930



VisitLudington.com/History

Dummy Train

In the early 1900s, residents and visitors would take the Dummy Train from downtown Ludington to Lincoln Lake and Epworth Heights, a 2.79 mile trip. It was named the Dummy Train because of its small size, frequent stops, and short route. A typical day would be enjoying a picnic lunch on the dunes, fishing, and hiking in the area. Portions of the original train rails are included as part of a sculpture you can see at Waterfront Park.



The USCG crew aboard the #36 boat in 1934

The Great Carferries

At one time, 13 carferries sailed in and out of Ludington's port all year, even during the winter! The carferry fleet included the Pere Marquette vessels, the City of Saginaw, City of Flint, City of Midland, S.S. Spartan—and the only one still in operation—the S.S. Badger.

These ships were built to move cargo and lumber to various ports across Lake Michigan, and today, the S.S. Badger takes passengers and their vehicles from Ludington to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. This grand ship has the honor of being on the National Register of Historic Places and is a treasure to the residents of Ludington.

Museums

The Port of Ludington Maritime Museum is in a prime location overlooking the harbor, housed in the former U.S. Coast Guard Station. View captivating and interactive exhibits, including a 110' panorama painting of Pere Marquette Lake. Listen to the words of Captain Nels Palmer through a hologram, and experience what it's like to pilot the S.S. Badger through the channel.

Historic White Pine Village, set upon 13 acres overlooking Lake Michigan, depicts how life was in Mason County during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Visit more than 30 buildings, with many originals that were preserved and moved to the village, including the first Mason County Courthouse. The gift shop offers locally made syrups and jams, and be sure to buy an ice cream cone at the Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlor. ⚓

Photographs provided by the Mason County Historical Society

OUTDOOR *Life* IN LUDINGTON

While visiting Ludington, you'll want to take advantage of all we have to offer. We're known for our lighthouses and the S.S. Badger, but here's a sampling of other things to do during your stay.

Great Outdoors

This is where you want to be to take in the fresh air, get some exercise, and appreciate the beauty of the area. We're blessed with three golf courses right here in Ludington—or play different versions such as mini golf and disc golf—both popular with families. There are numerous hiking and biking trails within the city, most notably east of Sherman and north of Bryant, where dogs are welcome on the 2.75 mile trail. Head down the road to Cartier Park, which also has paved surfaces. Or experience the Waterfront Loop, which takes you from Stearns Park, past the Coast Guard Station and Maritime Museum, through both marinas and

Photo by Brad Reed



Waterfront Park. You can also bike from town out to the Ludington State Park along M-116, and once inside the park, you'll find 1.5 miles of paved bike paths through exhilarating wooded terrain.

Boating and fishing are so much fun here, whether you're on Lake Michigan or Hamlin Lake. Depending on the month, you can fish for trout, salmon, steelhead, bluegill and crappie. Don't have your own boat? No worries—there are local businesses that rent pontoons, fishing boats, kayaks, canoes and jet skis. Access Lake Michigan from the Loomis Street ramp, Upper Hamlin Lake from Victory and Wilson Hill Parks, and Lower Hamlin from South Bayou Park or inside the Ludington State Park.

Camping is bigger than ever now, and the Ludington area has numerous campgrounds for you to park your RV



or pitch a tent. Choose a site near a lake or in one of our quiet, wooded areas. It's a fun and economical way to travel.

Take the kids to Copeyon Park off south Washington Avenue and let them play in the Splash Pad. They will love this clean, safe water activity and you will enjoy the view of Pere Marquette Lake.

Downtown

Stroll the three blocks of downtown Ludington and the five blocks of south James Street to discover all the quaint shops that are worth exploring. The newly-renovated Legacy Plaza is a lovely place to relax and features a covered market, seating area, a fire-pit and an urban green space. During the summer, an outdoor Farmer's Market is held here on Fridays.

Satisfy your hunger at many downtown restaurants now offering outside dining and take-out services. Selected restaurants participate in the new Ludington Outdoor Social District (LOSD) which allows you to

purchase an alcoholic beverage to enjoy outside within the designated area.

Waterfront Park is Ludington's pride and joy. Let the kids play on the expansive playground while you appreciate the nine bronzed sculptures throughout the park. This is also the perfect place to watch the S.S. Badger sail into port. ⚓

For other fun activities, read our stories about the S.S. Badger, lighthouses, the Ludington State Park, beaches, and parks.

And be sure to check out our Top Events story, page 22, for all the fun festivals and music performances in town.

VisitLudington.com/GreatOutdoors

Photo by Todd Reed





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LUDINGTON FARMER'S MARKETS

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The newly renovated Legacy Plaza is a welcome addition to downtown Ludington. It is a beautiful area with turf and paved surfaces, new landscaping, gas firepit, more seating, a covered pavilion, bike racks, and completely new restrooms.

For more information go to
VisitLudington.com/FarmFresh

MORE FARMER'S MARKETS

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spectrumhealth.org/ludington

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Ludington's Iconic NORTH BREAKWATER LIGHT



Few things are more impressive than seeing huge waves crash over a lighthouse, and locals flock to the waterfront with every storm—in every season—to watch the show from the shelter of their vehicle. In contrast, calm days present the best opportunity to visit the lighthouse up close by walking the half-mile outer breakwall to the end. The North Breakwater Light pier entrance is accessible from Stearns Park Beach. Thousands visit during the summer and it's the perfect place to watch the carferry sail into or out of port.

Built in 1871, the four-sided, white pyramidal lighthouse tower has four porthole windows on each of the three decks. The unusual shape was designed to deflect the strong waves of Lake Michigan. The Light was automated in 1972, and the Fresnel lens (now on display at the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum) was replaced in 1995 by a Tidelands Signal 300 mm acrylic optic. ⚓



The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association is responsible for the upkeep and staffing of both the North Breakwater Light and the Big Sable Point Lighthouse within the Ludington State Park. Their goal is to preserve, promote, and educate the public to make the lighthouses accessible to all.

[VisitLudington.com/Lighthouses](https://www.visitludington.com/Lighthouses)

Photos by Todd and Brad Reed



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BY THE LAKE AT
Parkview
COTTAGES
AND RENTALS

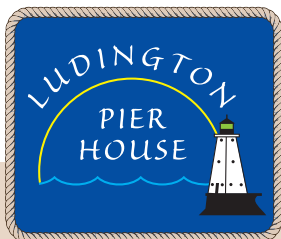


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Find the Light

BIG SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE



Located within the Ludington State Park, the Big Sable Point Lighthouse (or Grande Point au Sable as the French called it) is most recognized by its black and white tower. It stands 112 feet tall, with 130 steps winding to the top for a magnificent view.

Constructed in 1867, it protected mariners with light which was visible 19 miles into Lake Michigan. In 1949, Big Sable Point became the last Great Lakes light to be electrified, and automation of the light eliminated the need for a keeper. The former keeper's quarters is now a gift shop.

Big Sable Point Lighthouse is listed on the state and national registers of historic places. ⚓

Ludington's other iconic lighthouse, North Breakwater Light, can be found on page 42.

[VisitLudington.com/Lighthouses](https://www.VisitLudington.com/Lighthouses)



Camping

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masoncounty.net

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cityofscottville.org/riverside-park/

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THE *Power* OF LUDINGTON

Driving into Ludington along US-31, one can't help but notice the white wind turbines to the east and a steep, grassy hillside to the west. Lake Winds Energy Park and the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant play an important role in the community, and they're also fascinating places to visit.

Ludington Pumped Storage Plant



Photos by Brad Reed and Rachel Gaudette



Ludington Pumped Storage Plant

Built between 1969-1973, the Pumped Storage Plant is a 27-billion gallon water reservoir that is 2.5 miles long, one mile wide and 110' deep. During the evening water is taken in from Lake Michigan and pumped uphill through large penstocks to the reservoir. In the daytime the reservoir releases the water to flow back downhill through the penstocks. The flowing water causes the turbines to turn in the powerhouse and electricity is generated. You can get a close-up view of the 842 acre Ludington Pumped Storage Plant from the observation deck by driving south on Lakeshore Drive off Pere Marquette Highway.

Lake Winds Energy Park

The 56 wind turbines that make up Lake Winds Energy Park first became operational in November 2012. Each turbine is 476' in height, providing 100 megawatts of energy. They sit on 16,000 acres of farmland south of Ludington and are owned by Consumers Energy. The location was chosen partly due to the positive wind force off Lake Michigan. Wind power is seen by some to be the energy source of the future and helps offset emissions of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. ↴

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Weddings

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Is there a wedding or celebration in your future? The Ludington area is the perfect locale, with a combination of beautiful beaches, parks and woods. Couples who choose Ludington do so because of its location on Lake Michigan and the variety of unique venues in which to hold your ceremony. Whether you marry on the beach, in a historic chapel, or at a rustic barn—the Ludington area has you covered.

A destination wedding is more than a ceremony and reception—it's a complete experience. This is an opportunity for couples to escape their hometowns and celebrate their marriage at a gorgeous destination of their choosing. Heading out of town makes your wedding a vacation for all involved, and it just adds that special touch to a memorable day. Local businesses are more than happy to help with your event, no matter how big or small. Plan your wedding, anniversary or other celebration right here in Ludington along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

BEACH WEDDINGS

It's no wonder couples choose Ludington for their destination wedding. Our beautiful beaches are popular with brides and grooms that desire a more casual ceremony.

If you're considering tying the knot with Lake Michigan as your backdrop, turn the page to see your options.

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Stearns Park Beach

This expansive beach, right at the end of Ludington Avenue, has restrooms, accessible walkways, concessions, and picnic area. You are free to set up chairs anywhere on the beach, hold your ceremony, then clean up immediately after. Tents or canopies are not allowed, and no permits are required.

Buttersville Beach & Summit Park

Located south of Ludington, these beaches are a bit more private and no tents may be erected but chairs are fine. There is no permit needed to exchange vows on Buttersville Beach.

Summit Park

This park has a pavilion (holds up to 75) that can be rented for a small fee, and includes 40 folding chairs, six long tables, stove, microwave, and refrigerator for use.

Ludington State Park

This popular park has two beaches—one on Lake Michigan and the other on Hamlin Lake. There are also miles of public beaches along M-116 leading out to the park. The Ludington State Park has many beautiful features that would make it a perfect wedding spot.

Waterfront & Copeyon Parks

Though neither is on the beach, these two parks on Pere Marquette Lake both have gazebos for small weddings. Waterfront Park is set between our two marinas, and rental of the gazebo requires a permit from the City of Ludington. Copeyon Park overlooks Pere Marquette Lake and has a picnic area and restrooms. No permit needed. ♪

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ENJOY A QUIET SEASON *Getaway*

When you feel the urge to get away during the colder months, don't forget the Ludington area. We offer a variety of up north activities that you and your family can enjoy.

Fall

Fall color tours are very popular here along the lakeshore. October is peak season and a drive through the countryside is spectacular with trees ablaze in reds, oranges and yellows. This is also the time for the local Octoberfest celebration, complete with good food, drink, and entertainment. The cooler air and thinner crowds make fall a great time to visit Ludington.

Winter

Don't hibernate during the winter—celebrate the beauty of the snow in the Ludington area. The fun starts during the holiday season when Santa rides through town in the Aglow on the Avenue parade. Local stores are open, giving you an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. Then on December 31st, Ludington has its one-of-a-kind lighted ball drop, and it's a sight to behold. What a festive

way to usher in the new year! Later in January, the Pure Ludington Brrrewfest brings visitors and locals together to sample some of the best in craft beer.

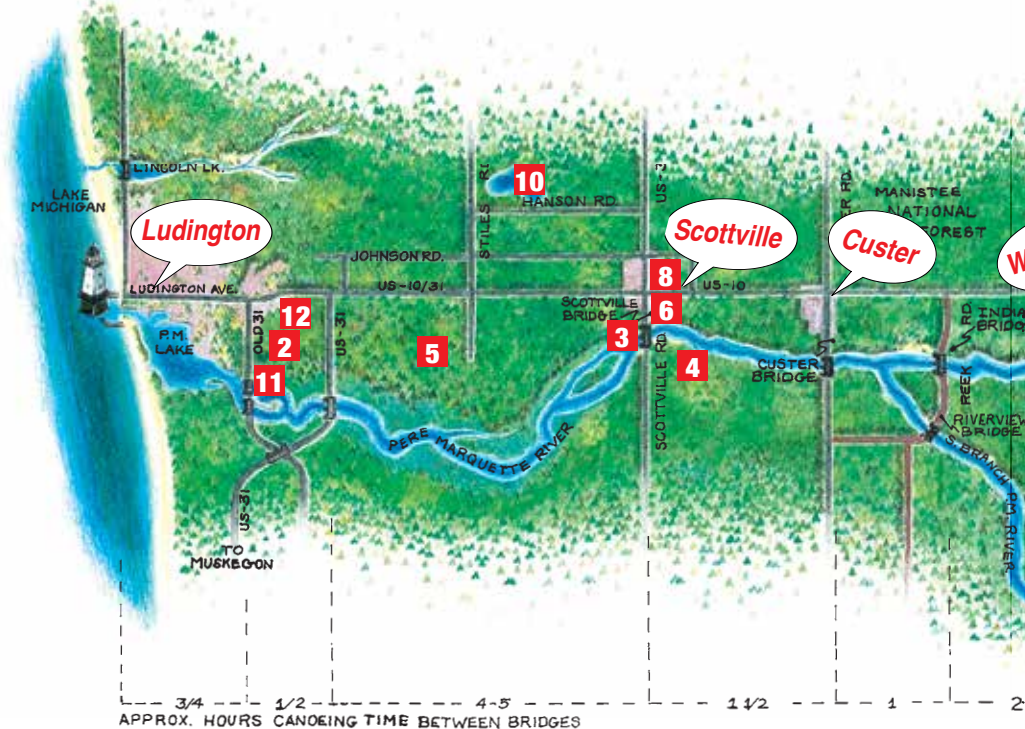
If you truly enjoy being out in the snow, you can head to the Ludington State Park all winter long. Snowshoe walks take place in January and February, and there are ski trails on the south end of the park for cross country skiing. Ice fishing on Hamlin and Pere Marquette Lakes is very popular. Once the ice hardens, anglers set up their shanties and catch fresh bluegill, walleye, perch and northern pike.

Spring

As the temperatures begin to rise, Ludington gears up for the busy summer season. May is when the Petunia Parade plants the beautiful flowers that line Ludington Avenue. The S.S. Badger carferry begins sailing, and our lighthouses open their doors to visitors. There are plenty of motels, hotels, and bed & breakfasts that are ready to welcome guests—eager to share their wonderful Ludington hospitality! †

Photos by Todd Reed, Brad Reed, and Rachel Gaudette





DISCOVER THE PERE MARQUETTE RIVER

The Pere Marquette River is a designated National Wild and Scenic River—covering 66 miles over four counties. It averages two to four feet deep and about 40' wide. There are many canoe liveries along the river where you can rent a kayak, canoe, or tube.

If you love fishing you'll love the P.M. River. Springtime offers up nice Steelhead and during summer the river yields an abundance of trout. Salmon is the main catch during the fall and makes for enjoyable fishing as the crowds tend to thin in the off season.

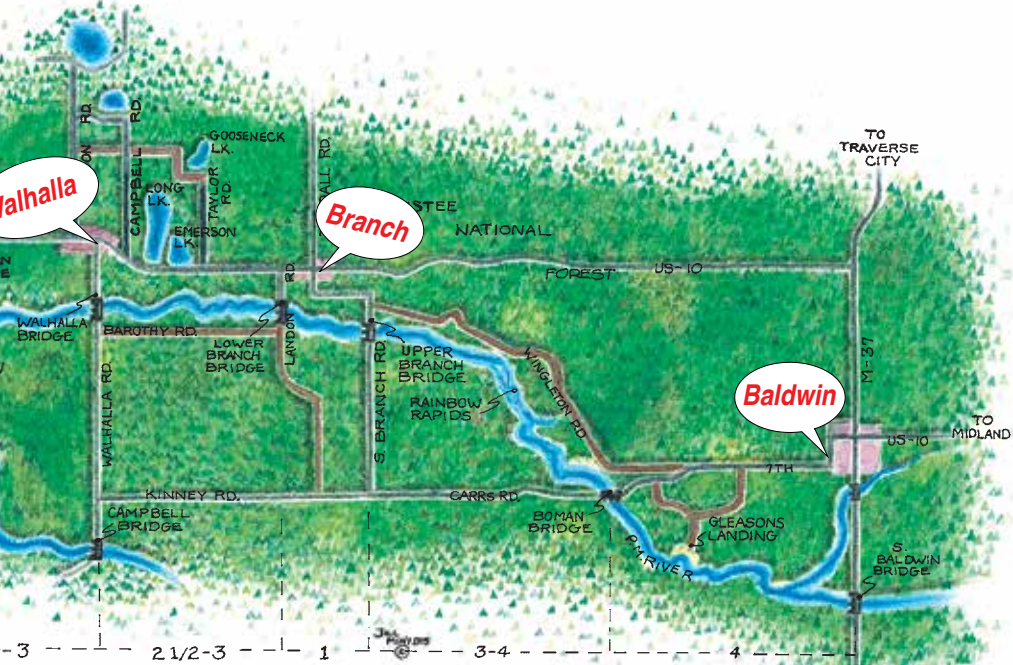
VisitPereMarquetteRiver.com

VISIT SCOTTVILLE ALONG THE P.M. RIVER

Scottville is one of the many communities along the river, and Scottville Riverside Park is a popular location for camping. It features a perfect spot for launching your watercraft and you can spend the day lazily navigating the river.

During the summer, maybe you'll be lucky enough to catch a performance by the famous Scottville Clown Band!

VisitScottville.com



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Area code is 231

CAMPING & LODGING

- 10** Crystal Lake Campground 757-4510
- 11** Nova Motel 843-3454
- 2** Poncho's Pond RV Park..... 845-6655
- 4** Scottville Riverside Park..... 757-2429
- 12** Vacation Station RV Resort 845-1100

DINING

- 8** North Country Cafe..... 757-3993

SHOPPING

- 8** Cole's Antiques Villa 936-1123
- 6** Holden's Furniture & Home Decor .. 757-8733

THINGS TO DO

- 5** Amber Elk Ranch 843-5355
- 3** River Run Canoe Livery 757-2266



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stay green in ludington



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We are producing renewable energy and using 110,000 KW worth of solar energy at each of our three hotels.



salt water pools

Our sophisticated salt water system eliminates the need for daily liquid chlorine use. This reduces our overall chemical use and provides a great swimming experience for our guest.



save the planet program

Reducing thousands of gallons of water and chemical use for laundry services.



LED lighting

95% of our lighting use has been converted to LED, greatly reducing our overall energy consumption.



car charging

7.6 KW charging stations are located at each of our three hotel properties. ALL powered by renewable energy.



smart t-stats

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