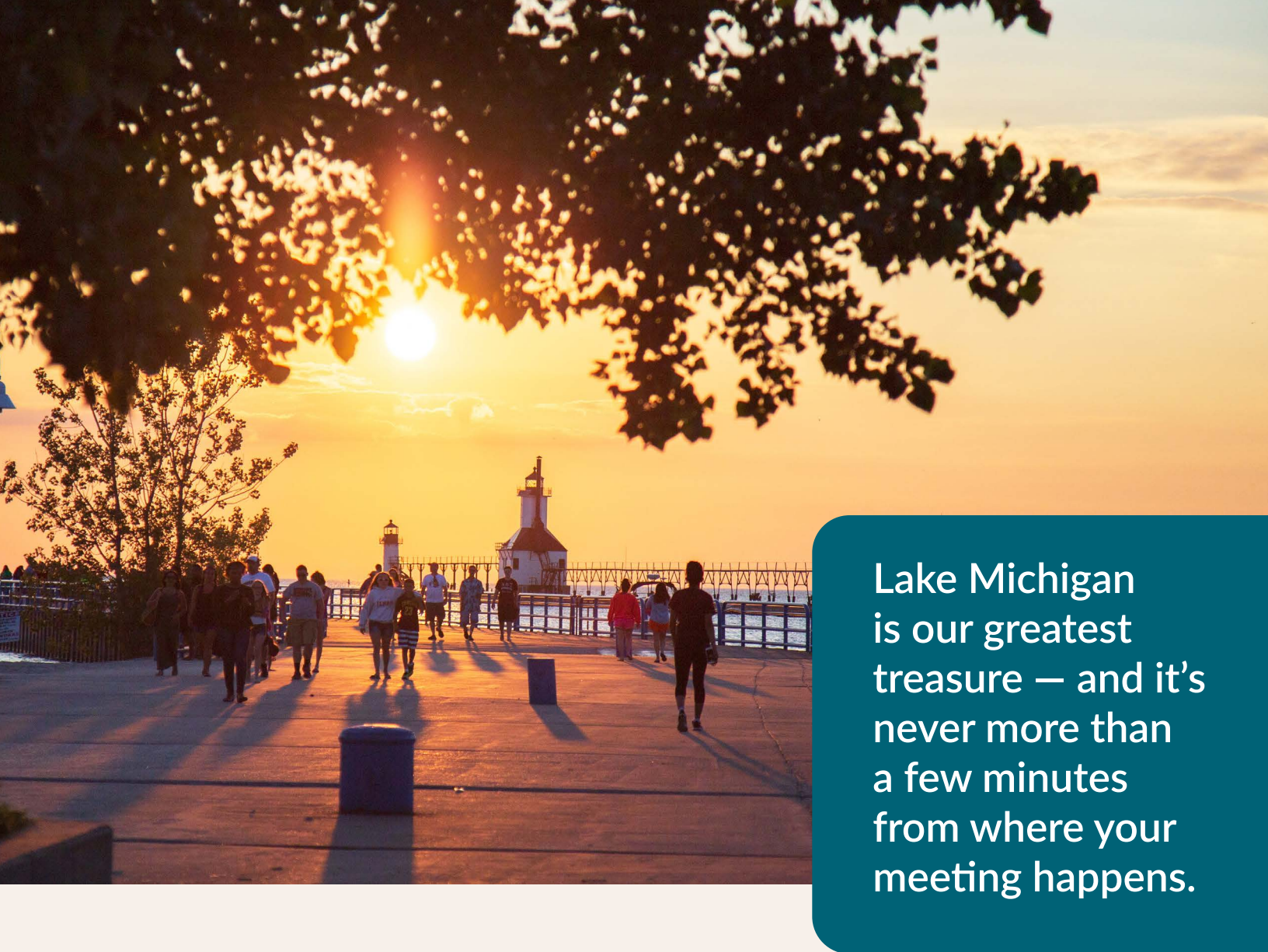


Southwest **MICHIGAN**

SAINT JOSEPH • BENTON HARBOR • STEVENSVILLE

An aerial photograph of a waterfront park and buildings. In the foreground, there are lush green trees. Behind them, a large building with a green roof and a curved facade is visible. To the left of this building is a circular structure with a blue roof and a central tower. Further back, a large fountain with multiple water jets is spraying water into the air. In the background, a sandy beach and a body of water are visible under a clear sky. A small boat is on the water, and several cars are parked along the beach.

Meeting & Events Planner



Lake Michigan is our greatest treasure — and it's never more than a few minutes from where your meeting happens.

EXCEED YOUR GROUP'S EXPECTATIONS

Planning a business meeting, executive retreat, team training, small convention or milestone celebration? Looking for the perfect place for a family or class reunion? Choose Southwest Michigan — and exceed yours and your attendees' expectations.

Few destinations along Lake Michigan offer what you'll find here. Inspire your group in venues with views of the waterfront, vineyards or ballrooms. Treat them to meals infused with locally

harvested flavors sure to impress. Build stronger connections while paddling scenic rivers, climbing a historic lighthouse, harvesting fruit, taking a Mediterranean cooking class, sinking putts on championship greens or sailing the Big Lake. No matter the reason for your gathering, Southwest Michigan brings your people closer. Hosting your meeting or event here is easier than you think — and more rewarding than you imagined.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Why Come?

When planning a meeting or special event, one of your biggest challenges is choosing a location that guests will eagerly say "yes" to — and afterward, rave about. Southwest Michigan makes both easy. Here's why it's such a standout choice.

REGIONAL FEATURES



SPECTACULAR LAKE MICHIGAN

Sparkling freshwater stretches to the horizon. Along its towering dunes and footprint-filled shore, you'll find a boatload of activities — from relaxing on soft sand to playing in waves that shift from mirror-calm to exhilaratingly wild. Pause for a gold-and-ruby sunset that steals your breath or marvel at winter's icy artistry sculpted by the wind.

- [Beaches](#)
- [Boating & Sailing](#)
- [Rocks & Fossils](#)
- [Beach Glass](#)
- [Sunsets](#)



MAKERS TRAIL TOURS

Every land has its makers. Carvers of wood. Forgers of steel. Tillers of the earth. Ours are masters of wine, beer, cider and spirits. Experience their craftsmanship. Taste a liquid masterpiece. Hike through vineyards. Raise a glass to each other. Follow our Makers Trail.

- [Explore the Makers Trail](#)
- [Wineries](#)
- [Breweries](#)
- [Cideries](#)
- [Distilleries](#)
- [Nature + Makers Trail](#)



CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Some places are naturally inspiring — Southwest Michigan is among the best along Lake Michigan's eastern coast. Connect your group with artists, actors and musicians while learning about the fascinating people and events that shaped our history.

- [Make Creative Connections](#)
- [Benton Harbor Arts District](#)
- [Art Galleries](#)
- [Murals](#)
- [Performing Arts](#)
- [Historical Sites](#)
- [Museums](#)

THE KIND OF TRIP YOU'LL WANT TO EXTEND.

REGIONAL FEATURES CONTINUE...



UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

In Southwest Michigan, you can create memorable moments for every age and interest. Climb to the top of a historic lighthouse and take in miles of picturesque views. Set sail on Lake Michigan or laugh your way through the harbor on a pedal-powered cycleboat. Hand-pick sun-ripened fruit from the trees or pumpkins straight from the patch. Enjoy a guided driving tour to local wineries and breweries, or dive into hands-on fun by learning to cook decadent desserts or craft dazzling glasswork. These experiences will be the unforgettable highlights of your time together.

- [Great Experiences](#)
- [Tours](#)
- [Farms](#)
- [Farmers Markets](#)
- [Splash Pads](#)
- [Water Street Glassworks](#)



NATURE ENCOUNTERS

Send your group outside and enjoy year-round fun! Every season brings new ways to soak up the scenery, boost your endorphins and breathe in the fresh air. In winter, hit the trails for snowshoeing, skiing, sledding or fat tire biking. Spring and summer are perfect for hiking forest trails, paddling scenic rivers, biking, playing pickleball or disc golf — and yes, even surfing! Come fall, brilliant leaves turn every outdoor adventure into a vibrant tapestry of color. Whatever season you gather, the outdoors call.

- [Outdoor & Recreation](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation & Sports](#)
- [Nature Centers](#)
- [Fall Color Guide](#)



GOLFING FOR ALL LEVELS

Does your group love to golf? Fuel their passions by playing in Southwest Michigan. What sets our courses apart from others in Michigan is the variety of designs and terrains — plus the eye-popping views of Lake Michigan, scenic rivers and orchards. It makes golf outings with work colleagues, family or friends anything but boring, no matter their level of play.

- [Find Your Course](#)
- [Golf Itinerary Ideas](#)



SHOPPING FUN

Give your group the thrill of hunting for great finds! Let them fill their bags with locally handmade art and home decor, kitchenware, keepsakes, delightful toys, books and stylish clothing that fewer people will have. Each of our Southwest Michigan towns warmly welcomes visitors.

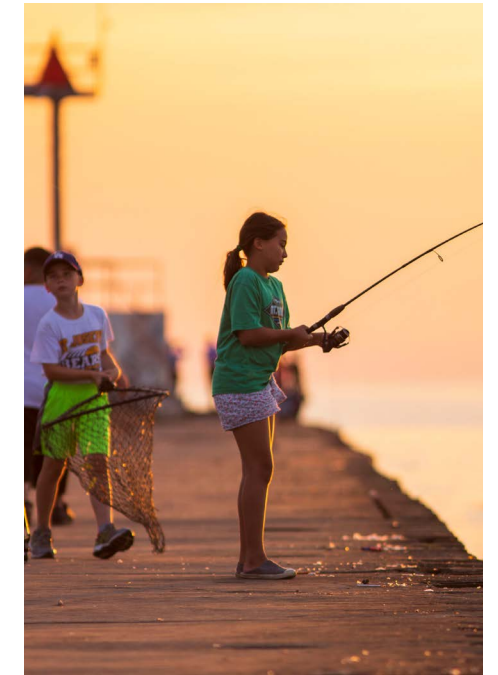
- [Where to Shop](#)
- [Towns](#)
- [Pop-Ups & Events](#)



ACCESSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Are you searching for a meeting or special event destination that is wheelchair-accessible? Or inviting someone who is neurodivergent and you want activities where everyone feels welcome and comfortable? Southwest Michigan is ready for you and everyone you bring along.

- [Accessibility Guide](#)
- [Accessible Beaches](#)
- [Wheelchair-Accessible & Sensory-Friendly Locations](#)



FRESHWATER FISHING THRILLS

This is a prime fishing destination offering Big Lake, river and inland lake experiences. Popular species to target are tasty trout, Chinook and Coho salmon, steelhead, walleye, pike, bass, catfish, perch and your favorite panfish. Your group can rent a watercraft or hire one of our experienced charter captains to take you where the fish are biting. Let's reel in stronger bonds.

- [Where to Fish](#)
- [Angler's Paradise](#)
- [Fly-fishing](#)
- [Ice Fishing](#)

Event Spaces & Support

Southwest Michigan offers the perfect space for your event — from waterfront rooms to park pavilions — with on-site support, tech essentials and nearby lodging and entertainment to keep everything running smoothly.



CATERING & DINING CHOICES

The food and drinks at your meetings and special events do more than satisfy hunger. They set the tone and shape the entire experience — and often are what your group remembers most.

In Southwest Michigan, you will find catering choices and group dining destinations that instantly elevate your event. Thoughtful menus that honor dietary needs, while locally sourced ingredients and craft beverages highlight our chefs' creativity. The right meal and break choices encourage your guests to connect, network and enjoy relaxing conversations. And if you have a theme, you can request a menu to add to the fun and memories.

- [Where to Eat](#)



ASSISTANCE FROM VENDORS

Having access to a vetted vendor list connects you with reliable professionals — decorators, musicians, transportation, photographers and more. We have a list of vendors on our wedding page who are familiar with our meeting and celebration venues and consistently deliver quality service. It will save you planning time to start here, and give you peace of mind so you can focus on hosting, not troubleshooting.

- [Local Vendors](#)



TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

One of the top reasons to meet or hold reunions in Southwest Michigan is the abundance of ways you can strengthen bonds, fortify relationships and deepen trust and respect. Solidify your team by raising the sails of a replica 1810 sloop. Share the thrill of reeling in a feisty salmon or sinking putts on a championship course. Push your limits by throwing axes, cable wakeboarding or mountain biking white-knuckle trails. Or unwind together in your free time, tasting craft beverages, paddling scenic rivers, harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables or taking cooking or glass-making classes. Southwest Michigan helps your group grow closer.

- [Team-building Activities](#)
- [Team-building Itinerary](#)
- [Activities for Accompanying Guests](#)

MEETING SPACES

INTIMATE UP TO 20 GUESTS

Southwest Michigan is ideal for C and D-level retreats, brainstorming sessions, legal depositions, focus groups, board meetings and special family celebrations. Choose from private indoor spaces, secluded retreat sites or spark fresh ideas in cabanas, beer gardens, decks or winter igloos along the Makers Trail.



MID-SIZE UP TO 275 GUESTS

Want to hold a training, workshop or sales rep? Celebrate an anniversary, retirement or reunion that will draw guests from near and far? Choose from contemporary ballrooms and halls, charming museums, historic sites and rustic yet amenity-filled farm settings. Add flare on performance stages. Or build unity at scenic Lake Michigan and riverfront pavilions and nature centers.



LARGE 275+ GUESTS

You are welcome to bring your large guest list to Southwest Michigan. Our largest facility, the Grand Upton Hall in Lake Michigan College Mendel Center, easily handles small conventions, trade shows, fundraisers and catered events for up to 900 attendees. Or seat 1,500 guests in the Jenkins Theatre for presentations, performances and lectures. The site, just minutes from I-94, offers free parking and outdoor scenic walking areas for your group, too.



LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT SPACE IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

FLIP THE PAGE TO COMPARE VENUES BY LOCATION, SIZE AND ON-SITE CATERING AVAILABILITY.

Plan by Group Needs

SMALL: UP TO 20 GUESTS MEDIUM: UP TO 275 GUESTS LARGE: 275+ GUESTS

BENTON HARBOR	Small	Medium	Large	On-Site Catering
Best Western 269-925-3000	•	•		
Comfort Suites - Benton Harbor 269-925-8800	•	•		
Country Inn & Suites by Radisson 269-927-4599	•			
Courtyard by Marriott 269-210-3000	•			
Dank 269-926-6652	•	•		
Hampton Inn & Suites 269-927-5878	•			
Hidden Pointe 269-926-1358		•	•	
Hilton Garden Inn 269-926-5000	•	•	•	•
Lake Michigan College Mendel Center			•	
Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club 269-849-4653		•		
North Pier Brewing Company 269-757-7163	•			
Point O’ Woods 269-944-1433		•		•
SpringHill Suites 269-338-8300	•			
Staybridge Suites 269-371-0000	•			
Sunrise Farms 269-769-4821		•		
The Oak Room at the Citadel 269-926-3059		•		

ST. JOSEPH

221 Main - Restaurant & Cocktail House 269-982-4000	•			•
Aria at the Whitcomb 269-999-0178		•		
Etre Farms 269-769-3316			•	
The Boulevard Inn 269-983-6600	•	•		
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites 269-982-0004	•			
Inn at Harbor Shores 269-983-1111	•	•		
Lazy Ballerina Winery 269-363-6218	•			
RyeBelles Restaurant & Bar 269-281-0318	•			•
Shadowland on Silver Beach 269-932-1128		•		
Silver Beach Carousel 269-982-8500	•			
Silver Harbor Brewing Company 269-281-7100	•	•		•
Union + Social 269-281-7100 ext. 101	•	•		•

STEVENSVILLE

	Small	Medium	Large	On-Site Catering
Candlewood Suites 269-428-4400	•			
Comfort Suites - Stevensville 269-428-4888	•	•		
Fairfield Inn & Suites 269-429-1111		•		
Holiday Inn Express & Suites 269-281-8300	•			
Coach's Bar & Grill 269-429-2600	•			•
Solarium 269-281-0872		•		
Super 8 269-429-3218	•	•		
Tosi's 269-429-3689	•			•

OTHER TOWNS

19 North by Froehlich's - Three Oaks 269-756-6002		•		
Bangor Elevator - Bangor 971-808-8863		•		
Fernwood - Niles 269-695-6491	•			
Four Winds Casino Resort - New Buffalo 866-494-6371		•		
Hidden Vineyard Wedding Barn - Berrien Springs 269-408-6082	•	•		
Howard Performing Arts Center - Berrien Springs 269-471-3560			•	
Journeyman Distillery - Three Oaks 269-820-2050		•		
Lake Arvesta Farms - South Haven 269-637-6464		•		
Lake Time Brewing & Spirits - Bridgman 269-748-2012	•			
Lehman's Farmhouse - Buchanan 269-362-4063		•		•
Local Pour - Sawyer 269-405-1262	•			
Nitro Zone - Dowagiac 269-462-9238	•			
North Lake Event Center - Berrien Springs 269-697-3339		•		
Orchard Hills Country Club - Buchanan 269-695-5991		•		
Owen Sisters & Co. - Bridgman 269-369-2038	•			
Section House - Sawyer 269-340-9036		•		
Sister Lakes Brewing Company - Dowagiac 269-332-5135		•		
The Friendly Tavern - Coloma 269-468-3037	•			
The Grand LV - Niles 269-591-0334		•		
The Morris Estate - Niles 269-684-4443		•		
Timothy's Restaurant - Union Pier 269-469-0900	•			•
Underground Laugh Lounge - Niles 574-320-8291		•		
Warner Vineyards - Paw Paw 269-657-3165	•			
Weko Beach - Bridgman 269-465-3406		•		

LET US HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING

We'll help you plan an exceptional event for groups of 10 or more, connecting you with local venues, services and custom welcome materials to match your needs and budget.

Getting Here

Whether you drive, fly, take the train or cruise in by boat, you'll arrive in this lakeside paradise before you know it. Just a short trip from major Midwest cities, it's the ideal spot for your next meeting, retreat or celebration.



COMMERCIAL & PRIVATE AIRPORTS

- [Southwest Michigan Regional Airport](#) | Benton Harbor/St. Joseph | 3 miles
- [South Bend International Airport](#) | 34 miles
- [Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport](#) | 51 miles
- [Gerald R. Ford International Airport](#) | Grand Rapids, MI | 87 miles
- [Chicago Midway International Airport](#) | 103 miles
- [Chicago O'Hare International Airport](#) | 121 miles

DAILY AMTRAK TRAINS

- [Schedules](#)
- New Buffalo
- Niles
- St. Joseph

MARINAS: TRANSIENT SLIPS

- [Anchors Way](#) | St. Joseph
- [Inn at Harbor Shores](#) | St. Joseph
- [West Basin Marina](#) | St. Joseph



Ready to Start Planning?

Kick off your event planning by submitting a few quick details. Whether you need help coordinating space, getting a Request for Proposal (RFP) started or setting up room blocks, we can point you in the right direction.

[Tell Us About Your Event >](#)



Southwest MICHIGAN

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