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By VacationIdea Staff on April 17, 2022 - Updated Houghton, Michigan is in the Northern tier of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The estimated population of 7,888 keeps a small town feel for this cold-weather city. Because of the long winters, many outdoor winter activities and festivals are held. Michigan Technological University holds a winter carnival each year that celebrates the cold weather with snow sculptures and contests. Visitors to Houghton will want to plan their trip accordingly. If you are interested in warmer weather activities, consider boating on the Portage Lake or a cruise along the Portage Canal. Be sure to check out some of the unique eateries around town. We recommend that you call the attractions and restaurants ahead of your visit to confirm current opening times. © Minakryn Ruslan/stock.adobe.com In 1991, the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum was named Michigan's official mineral museum. Over the history of the museum's gathering, there are now about 4,000 specimens on display over the three exhibit areas, though the number of specimens in the collection are well over 50,000. Those three exhibit areas are the Copper Pavilion, which showcases a 19-ton Lake Copper sample; the Phyllis and John Seaman Garden, a place to view rocks and plants; and the Thomas D. Shaffner Exhibit Hall, where mineral exhibits are housed. Guests are encouraged to dedicate, at minimum, two hours for touring the exhibits. 1404 Sharon Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931, Phone: 904-487-2572 -- You are reading "9 Best Things to Do in Houghton, MI" Back to Top © Carnegie Museum This building is associated with a great name not just in name alone. Andrew Carnegie provided a \$15,000 grant for a library to be built here. Since then, the library has become the Carnegie Museum. In 2009, a board of trustees took over the museum, attempting to renovate it back to its former glory. The exhibits featured in the museum are free for visitors. The museum is run completely on the funds of museum members. Guests to the museum can check out some of the current exhibits, like the vintage postcard display or the history of brewing on the Keweenaw. 105 Huron Street, Houghton, MI 49931, Phone: 906-482-7140 -- You are reading "9 Best Things to Do in Houghton, MI" Back to Top When you're on your way to the Rock Harbor on Isle Royale, you'll likely need to hitch a ride on the Ranger III. This vessel is 165 feet long and can carry 126 passengers across the water to the island. The schedule varies day-to-day, though you'll want to plan ahead to make sure you are not caught in one of the ports overnight (unless planned) since the trip is six hours one way. Along with transport, this ferry provides hour-long tours and even a three-hour cruise down the Portage Canal. Along with comfortable indoor and outdoor seating, there are lounges and a grill on board. 800 East Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, MI 49931, Phone: 906-482-0984 , OH -- You are reading "9 Best Things to Do in Houghton, MI" Back to Top © Sean/stock.adobe.com The Nara Nature Park is quite young, having been established as recently as 1993. Robert and Ruth Nara donated their property to the Houghton community to become a nature park. Over time, additional land was purchased, the Nara Nature Chalet and Interpretive Center was built, and an animal shelter was created. In 2008, the trails were mapped and officially connected to the Michigan Tech trails. One of the treasures of the Nara Nature Park is the Boardwalk, which is a 4,500-foot bridge that overlooks the Pilgrim River. There are fishing areas and kayak/canoe launching areas connected to the Boardwalk. 47375 US-41, Houghton, MI 49931, Phone: 906-487-2578 -- You are reading "9 Best Things to Do in Houghton, MI" Back to Top © shock/stock.adobe.com As part of the Michigan Tech Student Development Complex, the MacInnes Student Ice Arena is home to the Michigan Tech Huskies hockey team. This is a 4,200-foot arena that has been built up to near-professional arena standards. Fitting a capacity of 4,466 people, the arena is now home to 14 luxury suites, a pro shop, nine locker rooms, and a video scoreboard. For those visiting and training, there is a Puck Pit (thing batting cage for hockey) and a 1,500-foot fitness center. If you want to catch a game, be sure to check the home schedule. 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931, Phone: 906-487-2975 -- You are reading "9 Best Things to Do in Houghton, MI" Back to Top When you're ready to dive into some interactive fun in Houghton, stop by the Mine Shaft and Rock House. This building is designed with the old Quincy Mineshaft in mind, featuring rock tables, timber beams, and a bar with copper flecks. Along with an 18-lane bowling alley, there is an 18-hole miniature golf course and arcade with over 40 games. After a day of play and checking out the virtual reality roller coaster, be sure to stop by the Rock House Grill for some delicious food. For the adults, 12 taps serve up local and regional beers. 915 Razorback Drive, Houghton, MI 49931, Phone: 906-482-1230 -- You are reading "9 Best Things to Do in Houghton, MI" Back to Top © Keweenaw Brewing Company No visit to a new city would be complete without checking out one of the local wineries or breweries. The Keweenaw Brewing Company has been serving up brews since 2007. Today's patrons can either visit the brewery or go to the tasting room. At the brewery, an average of eight different brews is canned and shipped throughout Michigan. At the taproom, you can put your feet up around a 4-sided fireplace, the bar, or one of the tables. Brews that were prepared on site are served for a small fee. Ask what's on tap at the time, or look for one of their staples, like the Widow Maker Black Ale, the Pickaxe Blonde Ale, or the Borealis Bro. 408 Sheldon Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931, Phone: 906-482-5596 -- You are reading "9 Best Things to Do in Houghton, MI" Back to Top An offbeat destination with plenty of varied activities to offer, Saugatuck, Michigan, is a magical place and has been one of the top romantic getaways in recent years. Boasting turquoise beaches and golden dunes, this city is a paradise on Earth. It is the ultimate getaway, perfect for solo travelers and couples alike. If you are looking for recreation and rejuvenation, add this destination to your bucket list today! Here are some of the best things to do in Saugatuck, Michigan: Soak Up the Sun at Oval Beach Tim Kornoele / Shutterstock.com Oval Beach is one of the major draws of Saugatuck. Travelers come here to relax and spend their afternoons near the sea; however, the beach is rarely overcrowded and is always left spotless. This is the perfect place to spend the day soaking up the sun and unwinding. FotoKina / Shutterstock.com With a beautiful backdrop, it's the perfect place for Instagram photos. However, with the water level rising, there is significant erosion—so it is recommended you plan a visit to this scenic beach as soon as possible! QaoQao4810 / Shutterstock.com Take Up the Saugatuck Dune Rides A trip to the Saugatuck Dunes is likely to become one of the major highlights of your trip. One of the most sought-after activities in the town, the Saugatuck Dune Ride is a wholesome family activity. On the ride, which is about 40 minutes long, you will get to see the natural lifestyle of Saugatuck. They're power-packed with entertainment and fun, so you won't want to miss out on these phenomenal trips. The guide on the way will let you know a few amazing facts about the city, and it is a different kind of experience. One you will remember for a long time. Venture on a River Cruise Kenneth Sponser / Shutterstock.com The Saugatuck River Cruise is a luxurious way to explore the waters here. Many tour operators in the city—including some more popular ones, like the Star of Saugatuck—provide these lavish cruise tours. You should take up one of the early morning rides or one of the sunset ones as they will offer the most scenic views of the city. Mount Baldhead Park is the best place for recreational activities in the region. Known for its peaceful environment, this park is offers hiking and walking trails and is one of the most frequented spots in Saugatuck. The hike up is excruciating—plenty of steps to climb to reach the top—but you will enjoy the view. There are no specific activities in the park, but you can spend some time with yourself here. The place is aesthetically pleasing, and you can snap some amazing pictures there. The vantage point of the park offers gorgeous views of the city. Enjoy a Trip Aboard the Saugatuck Chain Ferry Thomas Barrat / Shutterstock.com Going on a trip aboard the Saugatuck Chain Ferry is one of the most beloved activities in the city. It is an old-fashioned way to glide over the water but is still impressive and enjoyable. The costs are minimal, and the trip on the old-world cruise is sure to transport you back to a whole other era. POK / Shutterstock.com The operators provide informative insights about the place and the history of the ferry and waterways of the region itself. You can visit it early in the morning to avoid the growing crowd and the afternoon heat. If you are a bit old school, you will love crossing the river through this ferry ride. Butler Street is one of the best places to go shopping in Saugatuck. The locale offers much more than just plain shopping benefits. You can snap some cool street pictures while ramming through an endless array of souvenir and gift items that you can take back home. The atmosphere of the street is quirky and ever-so-lively. In addition to getting your hands on the best shopping merchandise, you can also taste some delicious street food. It is an underrated spot in Saugatuck, and you should definitely explore it. Read Your Favorite Book Near the Kalamazoo River FotoKina / Shutterstock.com Are you the type of traveler who likes to carry a book on all trips? The green spaces and docks overlooking the Kalamazoo River are ideal for relaxing with a good book. The area around the Kalamazoo River is calm and serene. It is a silent place where you can sit and look forward to a quiet evening, basking under the sun by the rocks with your favorite novel. Chad Hutchinson / Shutterstock.com Bring along a packed lunch or some snacks, and you can make a whole day out of your trip. The Kalamazoo River is swift and does not make any noise. The only sounds you'll hear will be of birds chirping and leaves rattling. You won't get to enjoy such a peaceful ambiance anywhere else. Caleb Putnam, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons Seek Blessings at All Saints' Episcopal Church Teemu08, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons The Victorian-style All Saints' Episcopal Church is a popular worship place in Saugatuck. The church welcomes people from every faith. The aura of the church is serene and blissful, and you will feel an upsurge of positive vibes in the church. You can also come for the Sunday service, but make sure you arrive early in the morning in time for the proceedings! Savor Wine and Admire Art at J. Petter Galleries The renowned J. Petter Galleries houses fine art pieces that you can marvel at while savoring some lovely wine. The gallery has the best pieces and unique finds which won't be available anywhere else. There are over 1,000 artworks on display, all of which have been curated to make the finest collection. It is an art tour that you

definitely do not want to miss out on.To go along with the art pieces and everything else, they also sell wine.So, if you loved the wine you tasted, you can take back a bottle with you.Though they can come across as slightly spending.Brew Beer at the Saugatuck Brewing CompanyWould you like to stir or brew your own beer?Well, here's your chance to do just that.The Saugatuck Brewing Company will help you brew your first pint of beer right on the site!Every pour is crafted authentically, and the resultant beer is as smooth and fresh as it gets. Their refined menu is classic and has something for everyone.They also serve lip-smacking food for your dinner: their focaccia sandwiches are the best, and you won't be able to stop yourself from ordering brimming pints of beer. It can get a little crowded during peak hours, so make sure to reserve a table beforehand.Go Back in Time at the Saugatuck-Douglas History MuseumThe Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is the city's one-stop shop for all the history buffs out there!A relatively small museum by area, the venue packs quite a punch. Starting from old pictures to archives on the city's history to interactive displays on the region's life and how it has evolved, the museum will give you plenty to marvel at.This local museum is as intriguing as one of the big city venues, offers a unique insight into the region's past, and is definitely worth your time.It is located close to downtown Saugatuck and can be reached via the ferry.Go Picnicking at Coghlin ParkThe lush Coghlin Park is among the most popular picnic spots in the city.It is an expansive green garden area with a picnic shelter.The park overlooks the Kalamazoo River and makes for quite a setting for impromptu days out. The park is away from the buzz of the city and offers a tranquil atmosphere.You can pack snacks and relax at the park.It is not so crowded, so you can almost have the place to yourself. The atmosphere is calm and breezy, a quick getaway from the hectic city life.You can visit it in the evening hours to avoid humid temperatures.It is suitable for families as well.Explore the Saugatuck Center for the ArtsThe Saugatuck Centre for the Arts is a lively place.It is a beautiful property, a venue that oozes creativity and art.There are a lot of creative events that take place all year round, so make sure you check out the calendar before planning your visit. The center also offers one-time workshops for visitors who want to learn something new and innovative. A live theater also showcases evening performances, including live shows and music acts. Their motto is to infuse cultural values in every individual and preserve art. They have a growing community of art enthusiasts who gather here for events.Catch Hold of a Souvenir at Country Store AntiquesIf you are fond of gathering vintage items, then this is the best store for you.Country Store Antiques has unique and vintage items that will serve as the perfect reminder of your trip to the city. There are a variety of crafts—mostly locally produced—that you can choose from.It might take you a while to rummage through all the options, but you will definitely arrive at one or the other souvenir that suits your taste just right. Top golfers have teed off at the 18-hole Clearbrook Golf Course, which has served as a qualifier for the famous Michigan Open.Featuring large, expansive greens and challenging slopes surrounded by lush flora and brightly colored flowers, this course is a par 72.In addition to bunkers and water hazards, the fairways are surrounded by trees.It has several obstacles to keep you on your toes.You may use a variety of clubs on the course since there is no time to lose focus.The golf club includes everything you need for a terrific round of golf, including practice bunkers, chipping greens, putting greens, and a driving range.You may also enjoy a delicious home-cooked lunch and stunning views at the onsite clubhouse.Take Photographs at Peterson MillPeterson Mill is located between the Kalamazoo River and a pond surrounded by trees.Saugatuck's Clearbrook Golf Club is just a 20-minute walk away, and this apartment complex offers fully furnished accommodations.Peterson Mill is one of Saugatuck's most popular tourist attractions.Watching it in action is fascinating because it's still churning water the way it did when it was first built.Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Saugatuck with a cup of coffee and a camera.In addition, you may book here for a few days' stay if you wish to have a serene retreat away from the city.See Amazing Works of Student Artists at the Ox-Bow School of ArtAre you interested in learning more about the art form?Visit the Ox-Bow Art School!Two Chicago painters, Frederick Fursman and Walter Marshall, founded it in 1910.Located on a 115-acre campus, the institution is open to visitors from all walks of life who are interested in the arts.Year-round programs are available for established artists, students pursuing degrees in the arts, and those just starting in the field.Many young and aspiring artists come here to study to get their feet wet in the art world.The institution also accepts credit from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago for courses taken at the university.These courses can fulfill both on-campus and off-campus requirements for a student's degree.In addition, the school organizes a variety of activities and events for students to take part in throughout the year.Cap Off Your Day at Phil's Bar & GrillePhil's Bar & Grille specializes in providing fantastic American-style comfort cuisine to its customers.Whether you're a local or a visitor, you'll adore what this area has to offer.Online reviews list the restaurant as one of Saugatuck's most highly rated and reviewed restaurants, making it one of the city's most popular eateries.A wide variety of delectable culinary options is available for diners at this establishment.It has everything from broasted wings and scallop pad Thai to lobster cobb salad and vegetarian risotto.The Butler Street location of Phil's Bar & Grille makes it easy to explore the area's plethora of boutiques and restaurants after you've finished your meal.Other Things to Do NearbyMeander in the Fenn Valley VineyardsAre you fond of wine tastings?Do you love discovering authentic flavors of wine?Then, stop by the Fenn Valley Vineyards for their collection of premium wines, ranging from classic to new flavors. You can also attend one of the guided tours in their vineyards, which offer guests the opportunity to learn about the complete winemaking process.The tours last for two hours and are perfect for wine lovers or those who want a day out. Final ThoughtsIn Saugatuck, Michigan, you may find award-winning beaches, gorgeous canals, and grassy dunes, as well as a flourishing art scene.Plan a visit to Saugatuck as soon as possible, and experience this tourist's paradise in Michigan.

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