

## A Weekend Road Trip on Michigan's Sunrise Coast

Should you find yourself with a free three-day weekend this summer, you will want to consider taking a road trip around Michigan's Sunrise Coast. Just a short drive away, the coast around "The Thumb" is home to unique brews, culinary delights and community driven people that will make your visit worthwhile.

Your trip will start with a leisurely lunchtime arrival in Port Huron. After the two-hour drive, you will welcome a break at the Raven Café at 932 Military Street. This unique coffeehouse features a library with comfy chairs and board games. Bring along any books you are done with and leave them at the Raven for someone else to discover and find your next literary treasure when you browse the shelves. The food is delicious too and caters to a variety of diets.

Once you are well rested, make the half hour drive to Lexington. Spend a little time browsing the shops in downtown Lexington and if you make plans in advance you can even take in a play at the Lexington Village Theatre.

Park at your hotel and delve into some wine and beer tasting at the Lexington Brewery located at 5475 N. Main Street. The Lexington Sunrise is a three-blend craft beer that tastes like a cocktail that beer lovers absolutely must try. This is a seasonal brewery, so check online before heading there and be sure to say hello to the owners, Connie and Steve. They can make some tasting recommendations and tell you all about the fun events they offer throughout the summer.

As you're approaching the dinner hour, find your way to the Windjammer at 7420 Huron Avenue for dinner on the docks. Then get some rest at Lake Huron Lodge (7175 Huron Avenue) because you will want to be in Port Austin early Saturday morning for the Port Austin Farmer's Market and it's a 90-minute drive.

Port Austin is a tight knit community has a lot to offer so you will want to book a night at a local B&B for a comfortable stay. Start your day at the farmer's market, which has over 150 vendors that sell everything from produce to furniture.

When you have wrapped up your shopping, head to The Bank 1884 Food and Spirits (8646 Lake St) for an early lunch. This historic bank was reinvented as a restaurant while maintaining the integrity and history of the bank. The food is also outstanding.

Walk off your lunch on the trails at Port Crescent State Park (1775 Port Austin Rd) or rent a kayak from Port Austin Kayak to take out on the lake.

For dinner you will want to experience Bird Creek Farms (282 Grindstone Rd) for their home grown food and their Tap Room. This family owned and operated restaurant is located on their farm. You can enjoy your meal with a view of the countryside, and you may have even met them at the farmer's market.

In the evening, take in the sunset and enjoy a drink at Pak's Backyard (119 East Spring Street). They have several fabulous craft brews in a welcoming environment. Then get some sleep because tomorrow you head off to Bay City, another 90-minute drive.

Your first Bay City stop is for some baked goods at Cops & Doughnuts (710 E Midland St). It is really owned and operated by police officers and these guys know how to bake!

After that quick stop, drive the 20 minutes to Midland to do the DOW Gardenwalk/Canopy Walk Tour at 1809 Eastman Avenue. You will take in beautiful sights and spot some wildlife too.

Cool off and have a quick lunch at Bonedaddy's BBQ at 3216 Bay City Rd. They know their BBQ and you will want to be well fed before departing for Johnny Panther Quests (1 hour drive).

Before your trip, make a reservation with Johnny Panther Quests (8065 E Coldwater Rd Davison, MI 48423) or you may not be able to take his tour, and you don't want to miss it. This boat tour takes you to areas that many locals don't even know about. You can see bald eagles, deer, otters, beavers and a variety of other wildlife.

It's another hour drive back to Port Huron where you can grab dinner at Tio Gordo's Cocina (321 Huron Ave) before heading home.