

Southwest Michigan

Diverse neighborhoods and charming communities make Michigan's Great Southwest remarkably inviting. A variety of lifestyles can be found, from urban environments within walking distance to restaurants and night life, to neighborhood developments and sprawling spaces with rural charm.

Hey Veteran!

- Fort Custer Training Center near Battle Creek has been a premier military training site since 1917.
- The Battle Creek VA Medical Center has been recognized for providing exceptional health care for southwest Michigan veterans.
- Fort Custer Recreation Area in Augusta is 3,000 acres of lakes, rivers and trails with more than 200 campsites.
- The Battle Creek Air National Guard Base is home to the famed 110th Attack Wing.
- General George Armstrong Custer slept here!



Get out!

- Some of the best beaches in the country are along the "fresh coast" of Lake Michigan.
- As part of the 1,000-acre Grand Mere State Park, Grand Mere Nature Area is a favorite spot for birders—offering a variety of settings for studying the outdoors.
- Battle Creek's Cereal City Festival features the world's longest breakfast table.
- On the shores of Lake Michigan, the Golf Club at Harbor Shores is a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course and home to the 2016 Senior PGA Championship.



Good times

- The Lake Michigan Shore Wine Country is host to vineyards galore—filled with European stock and locally aged handcrafted wines.
- The region's craft beer industry is thriving. You can even take a one-of-a-kind journey into Michigan beer with West Michigan Beer Tours.
- The annual Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival is one of the biggest hot-air balloon festivals in the country.
- Southwest Michigan is lined with bike-friendly paths—currently under construction, the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail will connect more than 140 miles of trails.
- Open year round, Warren Dunes State Park offers 1,507 acres of dunes and lakefront camping, plus cross-country skiing in the winter.

Culture

- Feed the giraffes and spend the day exploring the animals of Wild Africa at the Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek.
- Experience live Broadway productions, comedy acts and music performances by checking out one of the region's many theater and performance venues.
- The Kalamazoo Air Zoo features more than 50 rare and historic aircraft, amusement park-style rides, full-motion flight simulators.
- Michigan's No. 1 historic auto site, the Gilmore Car Museum, features over 300 extraordinary cars and motorcycles.



Be more smart

- Five community colleges, three private colleges/universities and one research university.
- One of the largest universities in the U.S., Western Michigan University consistently ranks among the top national universities.
- The Kalamazoo Promise and the Legacy Scholars Program offer high school graduates the opportunity to attend post-secondary education—on an up to 100 percent tuition scholarship.



Top employers

- Denso Manufacturing Michigan Inc.
- Kellogg Company
- Pfizer
- Stryker
- Whirlpool

Take a closer look at Southwest Michigan:

www.southwestmichiganfirst.com

www.michigan.org

www.mitalent.org/veteran