

#1



Take a train ride back in time to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells that can only be experienced on a real steam engine train. **The Little River Railroad** locomotive often reminds children of the famous engine in the book, "*The Little Engine That Could*". In that story, the spunky little locomotive went against conventional wisdom and, with hard work, did the impossible. Roundtrip rides (1½ hours) leave from Coldwater every Saturday and Sunday.

~Coldwater

www.littleriverrailroad.com

#2



With over 500 antique dealers, (more than the town's population) it's no wonder Allen is considered the **Antique Capital of Michigan**. It is said that if you stopped at each of the booths housed in the immense buildings and small shops for just one minute each, it would take more than three days to visit them all. Allen Antique Auctions are held over Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day weekends. ~Allen

www.allenantiquebarn.com

#3



Ranked as one of the **Top Ten Drive-Ins Worth a Detour** by both The New York Times and USA Today, and one of the **Top 5 Drive-Through Joints** by the Food Network, the **Capri Drive-In** will take you back to a time when the windows were rolled down, the radio played the previews, and a beam of light from the projection booth cut through the night. From award-winning concessions food to owners who still run the projector, this is a one of a kind American experience. ~Coldwater

www.capridrive-in.com

#4

The taste and smell of award winning barbeque can be found at **Randy's Barbeque Shack** in Irish Hills. Housed in a bright red trailer, Randy's is also known for the large pig hanging from a sign photographed by people from all over the world. The smoked beef brisket, chicken, pork ribs, and pulled pork keep people from miles around coming back again and again.

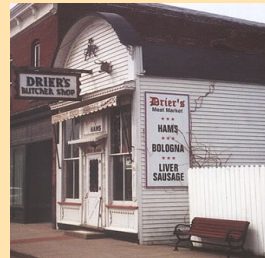
~Irish Hills
517-467-2810



#5

This National Historic Site has been in continuous use as a butcher shop since shortly after the Civil War. At **Drier's Meat Market** you'll find sawdust on the floor, old butchering tools, and a meat rack with ornamental cows. The 100 year-old Drier's Smoke House also processes and delivers bacon, ham, and sausage products that let you know the "*Good Old Days*" can still be enjoyed right now. ~Three Oaks

www.driers.com



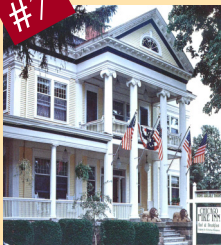
#6



This nutty business started back in the 1920s when the shop was a drugstore and an employee began roasting pecans in the back. Today, the **Tasty Nut Shop and Soda Bar** is home to the nation's largest selection of nuts and an old fashion soda fountain where travelers indulge in sodas made with hand-dipped ice-cream and nuts from around the world dipped in rich chocolate. ~White Pigeon

www.klinger-lake.com/tastynutshop

#7



Featured in the Chicago Sun-Times, the Detroit News, and many other publications, the **Chicago Pike Inn and Spa** is Michigan's premiere

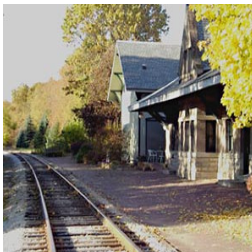
award winning historic retreat. The home was designed by Ashbury Buckley who designed many of the homes on Mackinac Island in the late 1800s. Today, the Inn's six guest rooms offer authentic Victorian furnishings, luxurious linens, and modern conveniences sure to please anyone looking for a unique historical getaway.

~Coldwater

www.chicagopikeinn.com

#8

The **Grayfield Inn** is an interesting track-side retreat located in a beautifully restored 1890s Michigan Southern Passenger train depot. The depot is located on a rail link that served as Chicago's first rail connection to the east! Today the depot offers guests an opportunity to experience



luxurious overnight accommodations, great food all located in a place that helped connect Chicago to the east back in 1852. ~Jonesville

www.roomsatgrayfield.com

#9



Ranked number one by **Trip Advisor Popularity Index**, the **Sans-Souci Euro Inn**, French for "no worry", is a private fifty-acre nature retreat of towering trees, groomed landscapes, a secluded lake, and home to an abundance of wildlife. Nestled in the heart of Harbor Country, the retreat is just three miles from the Lake Michigan shoreline. ~New Buffalo

www.sans-souci.com

#10

In the 1920s, William (Herb) McCourtie transformed a forty-two acre estate, once known as "Laiden (or Aiden) Lair," into **McCourtie Park** featuring



seventeen faux bois bridges. Each bridge is unique and sculpted in the faux bois tradition of carving cement to look like logs, planks, and ropes. This is the second largest collection of this type of Mexican folk art in the United States.

~Somerset Center

www.visitlenawee.com

#11

Visit the **Rentschler Farm** and experience what life was like for the four generations of Rentschlers who lived and worked on this homestead between 1901-1998. The 12-room house has been restored with period furniture depicting the rural way of life during the Great Depression. Many of the artifacts on display appear quaint today but were actually innovative in their own time. ~Saline



www.salinechamber.com

#12

Discover a faraway place that is one of the most picturesque in the Midwest and the nation. The **Hidden Lake Gardens** features subtle and bold indoor and outdoor courtyards, displays trees, artworks, and houses rare cultivars along with exotic plants in beautiful tropical settings. The 755 acres and five miles of hiking trails offers visitors the chance to experience every shade of green in the world. Hidden Lake Gardens is also home to the largest Bonsai collection in the Midwest. ~Tipton



<http://hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu/>

Enjoy 12 amazing discoveries along the trail...



www.us12heritagetrail.org

US 12 Heritage Trail
 Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
 185 East Main Street, Suite 701
 Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022

www.us12heritagetrail.org

Bridging Southern Michigan's east and west shores, the US 12 Heritage Trail is one of the oldest road corridors east of the Mississippi River. The road has had many names: the Sauk Trail, the Chicago Road, and Michigan Avenue among others. The corridor originally consisted of a network of centuries-old trails created by Native Americans. During the 1820s, a military road was established that followed these trails. At this time, it became known as both the Great Sauk Trail and the Chicago Road and the route became one of the most important migration routes for settlers into the Michigan territory. Paved in the early 1920s, the road was officially designated a United States Highway (US-112) in 1926. The designation was changed in 1961 to US 12.

Today the 212 mile US 12 Heritage Trail stretches from Detroit to New Buffalo continuing to be the backbone of Southern Michigan and an access point for exploration and discovery. Rich with colorful character, remarkable history and an ever changing landscape the US 12 Heritage Trail invites the traveler to journey its winding road, meet its people, explore its places and uncover its hidden treasures.

