

# 2020 WINTER *Guide*

## DEAR FRIEND:

Winter is a great time to bundle up and escape — to Michigan's great outdoors!

Michigan is the perfect state for those seeking all the adventures that winter has to offer. Families can enjoy skiing, snowboarding, skating, snowmobiling, ice fishing and more during the winter season. With more than 3,000 miles of cross country ski trails, some of the best downhill skiing in the Midwest and 6,400 miles of snowmobile trails, Michigan offers fantastic outdoor recreation opportunities.

Local festivals and winter events provide more opportunities for outdoor entertainment. This Winter Guide highlights many of these activities statewide and in our community.

Tourism has a huge impact on Michigan residents statewide, and tourism spending grew 3.9% in 2018 for a total of \$25.7 billion. So when you spend your leisure and sporting dollars in our great state, you help support small businesses and communities.

Best wishes for a safe and cool Michigan winter.

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR  
**TOM  
BARRETT**



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## ENJOY MICHIGAN STATE PARKS DURING THE WINTER

Michigan state parks aren't only great for warm weather destinations!

Michiganders can enjoy camping in the great outdoors all winter long, with more than 40 parks statewide offering campgrounds, cabins, lodges and yurts that are open year-round. Most of the locations are surrounded by beautiful cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobile trails.

Many of the locations offer heated cabins, lodges and yurts available to rent. Some locations are only accessible by hiking or snowmobiling, so be sure to do your research before you embark on your adventure. When snowmobiling, four inches of snow or more is required to operate a snowmobile within a state park and any trail riding must take place on trails designated for such use.

There's even a luge run at Muskegon State Park where the adventurous can catch the Olympic spirit! Call **1-877-TRY-LUGE** or visit [www.msports.org](http://www.msports.org) for more information.

To find the perfect park for your favorite cold weather activity, visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and click on the Camping icon. A state recreation passport is needed for park entry; campsite fees are extra.



## WEEKLY FISHING REPORT

Stay up-to-date on the latest regional fishing news and fishing tips all year. The Weekly Fishing Report outlines fishing conditions around the state. Access it online at [www.michigan.gov/fishingreport](http://www.michigan.gov/fishingreport) or by phone at **855-777-0908**.

## BARRETT ALERTS SPORTSMEN TO FREE WINTER FISHING WEEKEND

Michigan anglers can enjoy great fishing opportunities during the winter season. Popular winter species include bluegill, pike, smelt, walleye and yellow perch.

Additionally, anglers can check out **Michigan's annual Winter Free Fishing Weekend — Feb. 15-16** — when all fishing license fees are waived for residents and out-of-state visitors on both inland and Great Lakes waters. All fishing regulations still apply.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/freefishing](http://www.michigan.gov/freefishing) for information on special events and activities. A DNR Recreation Passport will not be required at any state park or recreation area during the free fishing weekend.

Fun fishing starts with being safe, and winter fishing has its own set of safety rules. Take extra care to follow all of the safety guidelines and enjoy Michigan's bounty!



## LOCAL **WINTER EVENTS**

### **Owosso - North Pole Express**

Owosso • Every Sat./Sun. in Dec.

### **Wonderland of lights**

Lansing • Now-Dec. 31

### **DeWitt Christmas Light Parade**

DeWitt • Dec. 1

[www.lansingfamilyfun.com/events/  
dewitt-christmas-light-parade/](http://www.lansingfamilyfun.com/events/dewitt-christmas-light-parade/)

### **St. Johns Light Festival & Santa Parade**

St. Johns • Dec. 4 • [www.sjlightfest.com](http://www.sjlightfest.com)

### **Night Lights Christmas Parade**

Grand Ledge • Dec. 6 • [www.grandledgechamber.com](http://www.grandledgechamber.com)

### **Hometown Family Christmas**

Eaton Rapids • Dec. 7 • [www.eatonrapidschamber.com](http://www.eatonrapidschamber.com)

### **St. Michaels Craft Show**

Grand Ledge • Dec. 7

### **Williamston Light Parade**

Williamston • Dec. 7

[www.williamston.org/event/light-parade](http://www.williamston.org/event/light-parade)

### **Winter Glow**

East Lansing • Dec. 7

[www.cityofeastlansing.com/winterglow](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/winterglow)

### **MSU Annual Arts & Crafts Shows**

East Lansing • Dec. 7-8

[uabevents.com/arts-and-crafts-show](http://uabevents.com/arts-and-crafts-show)

### **Christmas on Main**

Owosso • Dec. 14

[www.allevents.in/owosso/chirstmas-on-  
main/200018285104852](http://www.allevents.in/owosso/chirstmas-on-main/200018285104852)

### **Perry Christmas Fantasy**

Perry • Dec. 14 • [www.perry.mi.us](http://www.perry.mi.us)

### **Owosso - NYE Block Party**

Owosso • Dec. 31 •

[www.allevents.in/owosso/nye-block-  
party-2019-20/200018285105256](http://www.allevents.in/owosso/nye-block-party-2019-20/200018285105256)

### **Art & Craft Beer Fest**

Lansing • Feb. 9 • [www.artandcraftbeerfest.com](http://www.artandcraftbeerfest.com)

### **Michigan Nordic Fire Festival**

Charlotte • Feb. 22-24

[www.michigannordicfirefestival.com](http://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com)

*We apologize if we missed your festival. If you know of a festival in your community that you would like added in next year's edition, please reach out to our office.*

## STATEWIDE **WINTER EVENTS**

### **Tip-Up Town USA**

Houghton Lake • Jan. 18-19, 25

[www.houghtonlakechamber.net](http://www.houghtonlakechamber.net)

### **International 500 Snowmobile Race**

Sault Ste. Marie • Jan. 27 to Feb. 1

[www.i-500.com](http://www.i-500.com)

### **UP 200, Midnight Run, and Jack Pine 30 Sled Dog Races**

Marquette & Gwinn • Feb. 13-17

[www.up200.org](http://www.up200.org)

### **Continental Cup Ski Jumping Tournament**

Iron Mountain • Feb. 15-16

[www.kiwanisskiclub.com](http://www.kiwanisskiclub.com)

### **Winter Free Fishing Weekend**

Statewide • Feb. 15-16

[www.michigan.gov/freefishing](http://www.michigan.gov/freefishing)

## **FESTIVALS**

### **Michigan Snowmobile Festival**

Gaylord • Feb. 21-22

[www.gaylordmichigan.net](http://www.gaylordmichigan.net)

### **Plymouth Ice Festival**

Plymouth • Jan. 10-12

[www.plymouthicefestival.com](http://www.plymouthicefestival.com)

### **SISU Ski Fest**

Ironwood • Jan. 11

[www.sisuskifest.com](http://www.sisuskifest.com)

### **Snowfest**

Frankenmuth • Jan. 22-27

[www.zehnders.com](http://www.zehnders.com)

### **Winterfest**

Grand Haven • Jan. 23-26

[www.winterfestmi.org](http://www.winterfestmi.org)

### **Winter Carnival**

Houghton • Feb. 5-8

[www.mtu.edu/winter-carnival](http://www.mtu.edu/winter-carnival)

### **Winter Games**

Grand Rapids • Feb. 14-16

[www.stategamesofmichigan.com/  
winter-games-sports-lineup](http://www.stategamesofmichigan.com/winter-games-sports-lineup)