



7220 TRAVEL

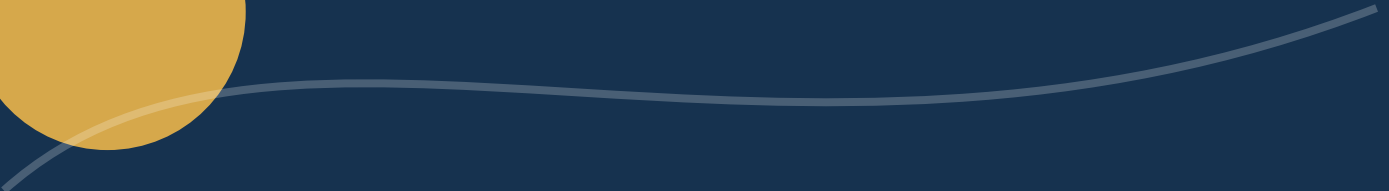
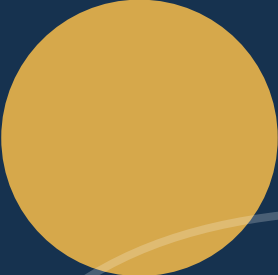
MICHIGAN

7-Day Family Road Trip Guide

Great Lakes, Dunes & Up-North Adventure

Family & Group Travel Experts

7220travel.com



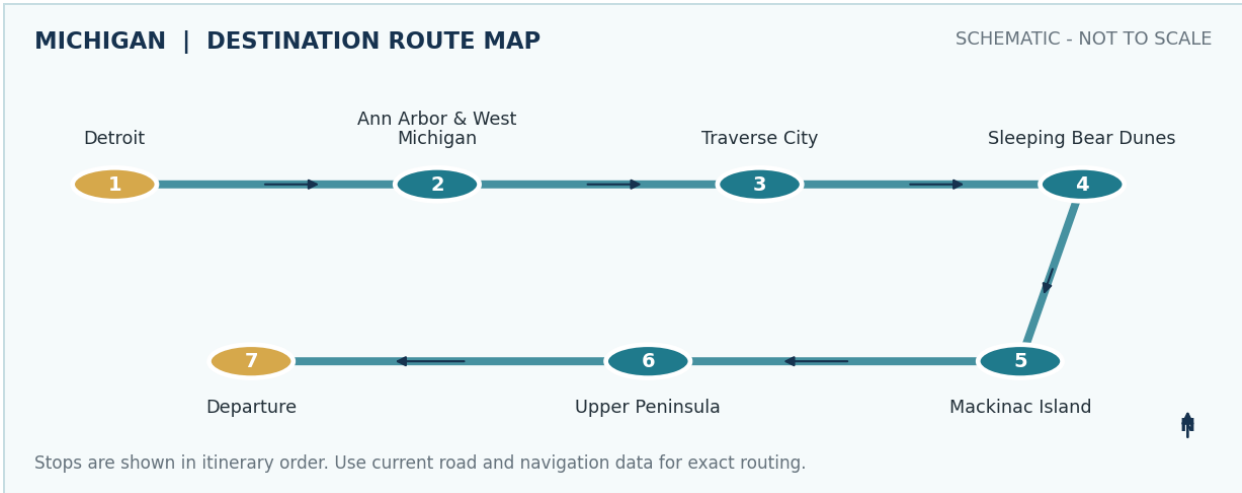
Michigan: Your 7-Day Game Plan

This guide turns 7220 Travel's Michigan itinerary into an easy, printable road-trip plan. The goal is simple: give your family a strong route and the best anchors for each day, while leaving enough breathing room to make the trip yours.

Trip style Family road trip	Pace Active but flexible	Best for Families & multigenerational groups
Transportation Rental car / personal vehicle	Length 7 days	Theme Great Lakes, Dunes & Up-North Adventure

The Route at a Glance

Day 1: Detroit • Day 2: Ann Arbor & West Michigan • Day 3: Traverse City • Day 4: Sleeping Bear Dunes • Day 5: Mackinac Island • Day 6: Upper Peninsula • Day 7: Departure / Return



7220 Travel planning principle: Choose the three experiences your family cares about most, then let the rest of the trip support those priorities. A good vacation does not have to win social media.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Detroit

- Visit the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.
- Walk the Detroit Riverfront.
- Explore Eastern Market or downtown.

Day 2: Ann Arbor & West Michigan

- Walk the University of Michigan area.
- Continue toward Grand Rapids.
- Visit a museum, garden or family attraction.

Day 3: Traverse City

- Drive north to Traverse City.
- Explore downtown and Grand Traverse Bay.
- Enjoy a beach or orchard stop.

Day 4: Sleeping Bear Dunes

- Drive Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive.
- Climb or hike the dunes.
- Visit Glen Arbor.

Day-by-Day Itinerary, Continued

Day 5: Mackinac Island

- Travel to Mackinaw City and ferry to the island.
- Bike or carriage-tour Mackinac Island.
- Enjoy the car-free historic atmosphere.

Day 6: Upper Peninsula

- Cross the Mackinac Bridge.
- Choose Tahquamenon Falls or Pictured Rocks area.
- Enjoy Great Lakes scenery.

Day 7: Departure / Return

- Drive toward your departure airport.
- Add a final lakeshore stop.
- Consider splitting the return drive with an extra night for a slower pace.

Before You Go

- Confirm attraction hours, timed-entry rules and seasonal closures before you travel.
- Build in buffer time. A 7-day road trip works best when every stop is not treated like a race.
- Keep water, snacks, a basic first-aid kit and offline maps in the car.
- For beach days, carry sun protection, refillable water bottles and a dry bag for phones and keys.

Make This Trip Yours

Circle or write down the three things your family would be most disappointed to miss. Those are your anchors. Everything else can flex around weather, energy levels, traffic and the unexpected moments that often become the best memories.

#1 Must-Do Experience	_____
#2 Must-Do Experience	_____
#3 Must-Do Experience	_____
One Meal We Really Want	_____
One Place to Slow Down	_____



Want help turning this route into your family's actual vacation?

7220 Travel can help with lodging, routing, cruises, resorts, family trips and group travel.

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Source: 7220 Travel's 7-Day United States itinerary collection. The destination route map is schematic and not intended for turn-by-turn navigation. Attraction hours, reservation systems, road access, prices and seasonal conditions can change.

Michigan Packing List

A family-road-trip checklist designed to pair with your 7220 Travel 7-Day Guide.

Packing mindset: Great Lakes weather can shift with wind and water temperatures. Pack for beach time and cooler shoreline evenings.

CLOTHING & LAYERS

- ☐ 7 days of underwear + socks
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ One extra top/outfit for delays or spills
- ☐ Layering tops
- ☐ Light fleece or sweatshirt
- ☐ Quick-dry shorts/pants

FOOTWEAR

- ☐ Broken-in walking shoes
- ☐ Activity-appropriate trail/hiking shoes if planned
- ☐ Comfortable sandals/secondary shoes

WEATHER & OUTDOOR

- ☐ Wind/rain jacket
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Small daypack
- ☐ Basic sun protection for every outdoor day

ROAD TRIP & TECH

- ☐ Driver license/ID + insurance info
- ☐ Phone + charging cable + car charger
- ☐ Portable battery pack
- ☐ Offline maps / saved reservations
- ☐ Reusable water bottle
- ☐ Small cooler + road-trip snacks

FAMILY & PERSONAL

- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ Basic first-aid/blister kit
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Laundry bag / packing cubes
- ☐ Wipes/hand sanitizer
- ☐ Copies/screenshots of key confirmations

MICHIGAN TRIP-SPECIFIC EXTRAS

- ☐ Swimsuit + water shoes
- ☐ Wind layer for ferry/lakeshore days
- ☐ Bike-friendly clothing for Mackinac Island
- ☐ Insect repellent for northern Michigan

Seasonal adjustment: Check the forecast, elevation, park/road alerts and planned activities shortly before departure. Add heavier cold-weather gear for winter/shoulder-season travel and scale back insulation during reliably hot periods.

Outdoor reminder: customize your gear to the activity. For hikes and remote stops, carry appropriate navigation, sun protection, extra layers, light, first aid, food and water rather than relying only on a phone.

This checklist is general travel guidance, not a substitute for current weather, park, road, airline or activity-specific requirements.

Michigan: When to Go & Where to Stay

A route-based planning page designed to pair with your 7220 Travel 7-Day Itinerary.

BEST OVERALL WINDOW	June-September
Why it works: Best for Great Lakes beaches, Mackinac-area travel and northern Michigan roads.	Seasonal tradeoff: Lake weather can stay cool early in summer; fall color is beautiful but nights cool quickly.

WHERE TO STAY ALONG THE 7-DAY ROUTE

DAY 1	Detroit: A central/downtown or main visitor district is usually the easiest family base for dining, walkability and a simple start the next morning.
DAY 2	Ann Arbor & West Michigan: A central/downtown or main visitor district is usually the easiest family base for dining, walkability and a simple start the next morning.
DAY 3	Traverse City: A central/downtown or main visitor district is usually the easiest family base for dining, walkability and a simple start the next morning.
DAY 4	Sleeping Bear Dunes: Choose the closest practical gateway town or park-adjacent lodge/cabin. Prioritize early access and less driving over nightlife.
DAY 5	Mackinac Island: Stay near the waterfront or main access corridor so beach/boat time does not get swallowed by parking and cross-town driving.
DAY 6	Upper Peninsula: A central/downtown or main visitor district is usually the easiest family base for dining, walkability and a simple start the next morning.
DAY 7	Departure: For the final night, favor easy airport/highway access and flexible checkout over adding another long transfer.

BOOKING STRATEGY

- Coastal inventory can have minimum-stay rules and sharp weekend price jumps; compare weekday placement before finalizing the route.
- Keep the longest drive days paired with easy-check-in lodging and avoid placing a must-do timed attraction immediately after a major transfer.

7220 Travel tip: If your priority is a specific park lodge, beach location or special experience, build the route around that hardest-to-get reservation first.

Timing and lodging guidance is general planning advice. Always confirm current park access, road conditions, local events, weather patterns and property policies before booking.

Michigan: Tolls & Cashless Roads

A route-specific companion page for your 7220 Travel 7-Day Itinerary.

TOLL EXPOSURE	PRIMARY SYSTEM
HIGH FOR DAY 6	Mackinac Bridge / MacPass

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THIS ITINERARY

Driving from Mackinac Island-area stops into the Upper Peninsula requires crossing the Mackinac Bridge, which is a tolled crossing.

- The Mackinac Bridge charges a toll by vehicle/axle class.
- MacPass is the bridge's local electronic account system.
- The bridge also accepts common card/cash payment methods in open toll lanes; do not assume E-ZPass applies.

BEST PAYMENT SETUP	RENTAL-CAR WATCH-OUT
For a one-time vacation crossing, use the current toll-lane payment method. Frequent users may benefit from MacPass.	No special toll network is needed for most Michigan driving, but make sure you have an accepted payment method ready at the bridge.

7220 Travel toll rule: Do not put two active interoperable transponders in the same vehicle. Pick one payment method, confirm that the license plate is correct, and read rental-car toll terms before the first cashless gantry.

VERIFY BEFORE YOU DRIVE

Official traveler information: <https://www.mackinacbridge.org/fares-traffic/fare-schedule/>

Rates, lane rules, accepted transponders and payment methods can change. Re-check the official toll authority shortly before departure. For broader multi-state coverage, pair this page with the 7220 Travel U.S. Toll Roads Traveler Guide.