



Midwest fall getaways

The days are getting shorter and the temperature is dropping, so make the most of the beautiful fall and discover your stunning surroundings with our pick of outdoor and indoor activities, scenic sites and cultural events for the whole family to enjoy.

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Traverse City, MI

Traverse City, Michigan, is a nice spot for relaxation this fall, offering a good mix of outdoor and indoor activities. The town is located in North Michigan State, just on the edge of a Lake Michigan bay.

Surrounded by lush forestry, water and golden fall leaves rustling and falling at every step, you can walk the shoreline, stroll through a wooden path or have a fun family picnic outdoors. Spend some quiet time lying on the grass with a book. Take the opportunity to cycle through the towns' bike paths before the cold sinks in.

Do you want to stay indoors? Traverse City and neighboring towns also offer you a variety of art galleries and museums. Visitors will find many art forms to suit eclectic tastes, from sculpture and painting to glass artistry and even photography. If history is more your thing, or for a rainy day, a variety of regional, historical museums are also open to the public.

A great, not-to-miss institution is the Interlochen Center for the Arts, just southwest of Traverse City. This artistic resource center offers more than 750 concerts, art exhibits, theater plays and dance shows annually.

Visit www.visittraversecity.com for more information and a full Traverse City gallery list.



Adams County, OH

Located just near the banks of the Ohio River, Adams County, Ohio, is a place still resonating the spirit of America's past. A cozy, small-town atmosphere mixes well with naturally preserved prairie habitats.

For visitors in the area, it is fascinating to explore the local Amish community. The Amish are a Mennonite Christian community known for their traditional way of life, with simple clothes and little use of technology.

The Adams County Wheat Ridge Amish Community houses about 96 households. Visit their shops and bakeries, as well as artisan shops offering a variety of goods and services, and watch them go by in their traditional horse buggies.

A historically significant attraction in this area is the Adams County Paleo-Indian District, one of the largest Paleo-Indian Sites in North America. Check out the history of Ohio's earliest hunter-

gatherer inhabitants, with artifacts dating as far back as 11,500 BC.

If you want to explore the area's rich natural habitat, visit the Appalachian Discovery Quilt Barn Trail. In addition to over 85 miles of hiking trails, the park is a haven for bird watchers. Catch a glimpse of a Bald Eagle, and Osprey, a Horned Lark and many other bird species. You can also visit Serpent Mound, a national historical landmark and an ancient, Native American ceremonial structure.

More information about activities and attractions in the entire region is available on www.adamscountytravel.org.

TRAVERSE CITY

1. Take a stroll on the shoreline of Lake Michigan

ADAMS COUNTY

2. Explore the Amish community and the spirit of America's past
3. The prehistoric Serpent Mound is the remnant of an ancient culture

WARREN DUNES

4. Hang gliding at Warren Dunes



Warren Dunes, MI

Located right on the shore of Lake Michigan, almost exactly on the other side of the lake from the city of Chicago, IL, Warren Dunes is the perfect camping ground for nature lovers. Visit Warren Dunes for a fun fall camping trip before the winter cold sets in.

Filled with large sand dunes, Warren Dunes is a fit-for-all campground. Do a true-to-the-core camping trip, or for civilization-oriented folk, there is a very modern campground with a restroom and shower building, as well as electrical service and drinking water pumps. Choose what is most

comfortable for you and your family. The park also offers a variety of cozy cabins for those who prefer to sleep indoors.

Activities at Warren Dunes abound. From fishing and hiking, to biking and picnicking, everyone in your family will find something to enjoy.

The environmentally conscious might be happy to know that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment is starting a variety of green initiatives, including using more biodiesel instead of petroleum, reducing energy consumption as well as keeping the marina clean.

Prices to enter the different campgrounds may vary, so visit www.dnr.state.mi.us/parksandtrails/Listing.aspx for more information on Warren Dunes, Michigan.



Milwaukee, WI



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

The Milwaukee Art Museum, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is an interesting structure both outside and within. For visitors planning to stop by this northern city, a visit to this museum is a must.

Located on the shore of Lake Michigan in the city of Milwaukee, WI, the museum is a giant, white, modern structure, built in a bizarrely spacey architecture style. Even if you are not planning to go inside, it's worth it just to walk around the building and admire its unique architecture.

Over 1,500 art pieces are on display at the museum at all times. From paintings and sculptures, to photography, video art, drawings and more, this museum has it all. For fans of modern and decorative arts, from October 9, 2010 to January 9, 2011, the museum will feature an exhibition of European Design since 1885.

Admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for students, seniors and active military members. It is free for children aged 12 and under, so have your kids tag along for a cultural experience. If you come on a Sunday, the museum's family Sundays offer a variety of artistic activities for children.

Most importantly, museum admission is free for all every first Thursday of the month.

Visit www.mam.org for more information on fall exhibitions and events.



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

1. The museum's astonishing architecture
2. Bookcase by Ron Arad, *This Mortal Coil*, 1993
3. Warrington Colescott, *Santiago Calatrava at the Bal du Lac*
4. Intimate images of love and loss: Portrait miniatures: *A Young Girl* by John Barry and *Woman with Wavy Hair* by Heinrich Schödl



LAKE GENEVA

5. The Black Point Estate is a 19th century German mansion

Lake Geneva, WI

Another great nature get-away spot, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, is located about an hour southwest from Milwaukee, WI, and just over an hour and a half northwest from Chicago, IL.

Well-known historically for being the location where the wealthy hid away during the Chicago Fire of 1871, nowadays, Lake Geneva still displays lovely manors and vacation homes to please the eye. For tourist lodging, the town offers a variety of country inns and bed-and-breakfasts to

suit anyone's taste.

A lake and a quaint town in one, Lake Geneva is very popular, and as such a bit crowded. One of the biggest attractions is the Lake Geneva Cruise Line, which offers a variety of boat tours across the lake. The Black Point Estate Tour not only offers a boat tour, but an additional walking tour through a 19th century mansion.

Take a casual stroll through the streets of Lake Geneva, visiting small shops along the way. Visitors are bound to come

across an ice cream shop during your walk, and tasting the town's delicious ice cream is an absolute must even in the fall.

As the water might be too cold for swimming in the fall months, the Lake Geneva Beach closes after Labor Day weekend. Other water activities abound. In addition to boat tours, visitors can rent a sailboat or a canoe for a more private water experience.

Visit www.lakegenewawi.com or www.cityoflakegeneva.com for more information.



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

Located in Glencoe, Illinois, The 385-acre garden features 24 display gardens displaying more than 2,300,000 plants that consist of 9,330 different plant groups. A truly global plant collection, scientists have brought back seeds and vegetation from Asia, Europe and different parts of North America.

In the fall season, much of the vegetation is at the peak of its growth, and this season, visitors will find bright red, potted plants displayed throughout the garden.

From November 26, 2010 through January 2, 2011, the Botanic Garden will host its Wonderland Express exhibition. The garden will transform into a winter celebration of lights and holiday horticulture wonders. More than 80

miniature versions of Chicago's favorite landmarks, made from tree, plant and other natural materials, will also be displayed.

But the Chicago Botanic Garden offers more than its collection of plants. In November, it will exhibit more than 200 quilts and other needle arts such as knitting and wearable art dolls. In honor of Halloween, on October 30, the garden will be hosting a Spooky Pooch Parade. Even if you don't have a dog, don't miss this amusing parade of costumed canines.

General admission to the Chicago Botanic Garden is free, although some events might cost additional money and parking in the garden's lot costs \$20 per car. Visit www.chicagobotanic.org for more information on all this and more.



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1. Evening Island
2. Enabling Garden awash in a spectacle of autumn colors

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

3. North view of Michigan Avenue facade
4. Modern Wing's Contemporary Gallery
5. The recently completed Modern Wing makes the Art Institute of Chicago the second largest museum in the U.S.
6. Marie-Blanche-Hennelle Fournier, *Untitled page from the Madame B Album* – part of *Playing with Pictures: The Art of Victorian Photocollage* exhibition
7. Grant Wood's *American Gothic* is one of the museum's most iconic paintings in permanent collection

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

Another museum that is a definite visitor's must is the Art Institute of Chicago. Right on Michigan Avenue's Magnificent Mile, the museum houses one of the best art collections in the country.

From several floors covering European art, including early religious art and 19th century impressionist art, to Asian, American and even African art, this museum has something for everyone's taste. Along with paintings, the museum offers sculpture, photography and more.

For those seeking a more unique artistic experience, the recently built modern wing showcases a collection of surrealist and cubist art, with renowned artists such as Picasso and Dali, as well as other lesser known but interesting painters.

The modern wing is also notable for its large windows offering a spectacular view onto Chicago's Downtown, the famous millennium park and its bean sculpture. Chicago is visible in all its glory.

Before or after visiting the museum, walk outside of the modern wing on a bridge promenade overlooking the city. The bridge will take you to a nice courtyard, also offering an impressive city view.

Admission is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children, students and seniors. Children under 14 years of age can get in free. Admission to the museum is free for all on Thursdays after 5pm.

Visit www.artic.edu/aic for more information.