

## Frequently asked questions from Ludington and Mason County area visitors

### VISITORS INFORMATION CENTER LOCATIONS:

- Ludington Area Chamber of Commerce, 5300 West U.S. 10 (at airport)
  - Lobby 8am-8pm Mon – Fri. , vestibule 24hrs/day 845-0324
- Downtown Ludington Visitors Center, corner of West Ludington Ave and North Robert St
  - Staffed during the months of May - October
  - Mon-Thurs 10am – 6pm, Friday & Saturday 10am-9pm, Sunday 10am-4pm
- Scottville Senior Center/Scottville Visitor Center 140 South Main Street, Scottville
  - Monday – Friday 8am-4:30pm

### Where are the public beaches?

---

Buttersville Beach – South Lakeshore Drive

Hamlin Beach – within Ludington State Park

Ludington State Park/M-116

Stearns Park – North Lakeshore Drive

Summit Park – South Lakeshore Drive

### Where are your public restrooms?

---

On Rath Avenue at Loomis Street • On North James Street at Court Street

\*Open 8am-9pm, Memorial Day until Labor Day\*

Waterfront Park \*Open 8am-9pm, Mid April until mid October

At Stearns Park (on North Lakeshore Drive) • Copeyon Park (on South Washington Ave)

\*Open 9am-9pm from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in May until the end of September\*

Boat Launch in Scottville \*Open 24/7, 365 days a year\* PORT-A-JON

### Where is Waterfront Park?

---

The five acre park located on the Ludington Harbor includes shade shelters, a playground, bronze sculptures depicting Ludington's history and a restroom and bandshell building.

From Ludington Avenue at William Street, drive south two blocks. The park is located at the corner of William and Filer Streets between the Ludington Municipal Marina and Harbor View Marina.

### How do you get to the Ludington State Park?

---

The State Park offers year 'round activities such as hiking, hunting, biking, picnicking, fishing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, and camping.

Driving directions: Take U.S. 10 (Ludington Avenue) west to Lakeshore Drive, head north, road turns into M-116, follow to end. \$11 annual (Michigan residents); or Day pass \$8.40/Annual pass \$30.50 for non-Michigan residents (in 2013)

Local office 231-843-2423; For reservations: 800-447-2757

### What is White Pine Village? How do we get there?

---

Historic White Pine Village features over 25 restored or recreated buildings preserving Mason County's long history on a 23-acre site overlooking Lake Michigan. Open seasonally (closed in the winter). Admission fee applies. Driving directions: From Ludington, take Pere Marquette Hwy south. Take your first right after Pere Marquette river on Iris road which will dead end at South Lakeshore drive. Take a right on South Lakeshore and follow to village • 231-843-4808

## **What is the schedule for the Lake Michigan Carferry?**

---

Visit [www.ssbadger.com/](http://www.ssbadger.com/) for details. The carferry runs seasonally – spring through fall. The S.S. Badger is a 410-foot vessel, approximately one-and-one-half times the size of a football field, that is seven stories tall and can accommodate over 620 passengers and 180 automobiles, tour buses, RVs, motorcycles, and commercial trucks. Each season, the S.S. Badger makes almost 500 crossings at 60 miles from port to port. It is the largest carferry operating on the Great Lakes providing cross-lake transportation service from its home port of Ludington to Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Phones: 231-845-5555; 1-800-841-4243

## **Where is a good spot to watch the Badger sail in and out of the harbor?**

---

- On the North Breakwater pier at the North Breakwater Lighthouse. Great place for pictures!
- At Waterfront playground/Sculpture park
- Buttersville Beach on Buttersville peninsula
- Carferry dock

## **Can we tour the lighthouse?**

---

Ludington boasts two historic lighthouses—one at the end of the north pier off Stearns Park’s public beach, and Big Sable Point Lighthouse, built in 1867. Visitors can tour the Ludington North Breakwater light during summer hours. Also, visitors can tour Big Sable Point Lighthouse after a 1.5-mile walk along the beach or the lighthouse service trail (the walk starts at the parking lot just inside the Ludington State Park entrance). Tower tour donations: Adults \$3. Children (through age 11) over 36” tall are \$1. Children under 36” tall are not permitted on tours. On designated days during the summer, a bus is available to shuttle visitors, for a fee, from the State Park to the Big Sable Point Lighthouse. Phone: 231-845-7417; Website: [www.splka.org](http://www.splka.org)

## **What is the Ludington Pumped Storage Plant?**

---

From the outside it looks like a grassy hillside topped by an inviting crystal blue lake. But at the base of this manmade masterpiece, huge turbines generate electricity for thousands of Michigan consumers. Visitors may view the plant’s 842-acre reservoir and Lake Michigan from an observation deck on South Lakeshore Drive.

## **How can we get a charter fishing or boating trip?**

---

Ludington is known as the #1 fishing port in Michigan for salmon. The harbor is home to more than 50 charter fishing businesses. A listing of captains can be found at area visitor centers and marinas or online at [www.ludingtoncharterboats.org/](http://www.ludingtoncharterboats.org/). Many captains also provide “cruise excursions” for those interested in a boat ride on Lake Michigan. Ludington Area Charterboat Association • 231-843-3474

## **Where are your marinas?**

---

- Harbor View Marina, 400 South Rath Ave • 231-843-6032
- Ludington Municipal Marina, 400 West Filer • 231-843-9611
- Ray’s Auto Marine, 801 South Washington Ave, Ludington • 231-843-3770
- Tamarac Sport Fishing Dock, 105 Water Street, Ludington • 231-845-5987

## **Where are the public boat launches?**

---

- Hamlin Lake – At the Ludington State Park and Wilson Hill Park on Barnhart road
- Lake Michigan – Loomis Street ramp in Ludington, and the west end of Ludington Avenue
- Pere Marquette Lake – Copeyon Park on South Washington Ave in Ludington
- Pere Marquette River – On Pere Marquette Hwy just south of Ludington and Scottville Riverside Park just south of Scottville

*For a complete list of public boat launch sites, refer to the Ludington Area Vacation Planner.*

## **Tell me what is happening this weekend.**

---

Upcoming event listings for the area can be found:

Listed in the Community Calendar brochure

In the “Weekend/The Scene” section of Thursday’s *Ludington Daily News*

Online at:

[www.downtownludington.org](http://www.downtownludington.org); [www.pureludington.com](http://www.pureludington.com); [www.ludington.org](http://www.ludington.org)

## **What if emergency care is needed?**

**For immediate care, dial 911**

---

Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital

Emergency room open 24 hours

1 North Atkinson Drive in Ludington (Follow Ludington Ave east from downtown, left at first stoplight after Washington Ave light) • 231-843-2591

## **What can we do if it rains?**

---

Sandcastles Children’s Museum, 129 East Ludington Ave • 231-233-9326,

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

AJ’s Arcade, 4743 West U.S. 10 • 231-843-4838, [www.ajsfamilyfun.com](http://www.ajsfamilyfun.com)

Country Lanes Bowling Center, 2253 West U.S. 10 • 231-757-2391, [www.countrylanesludington.com](http://www.countrylanesludington.com)

Carmike Harbor Cinemas, 3857 West U.S. 10 • 231-843-9310

Irish Hills, 111 West Ludington Ave • 231-843-2138 (indoor video golf only open November thru March)

Little River Casino, 2700 Orchard Hwy, Manistee • 888-568-2244, [www.lrcr.com](http://www.lrcr.com)

Ludington School Pool at OJ DeJonge Middle School, 706 East Tinkham Ave. • Cost: \$2 adults and \$1 child

Summer Hours: Tues & Wed 7:30-8:30pm, Sat & Sun 2pm-4pm, Family swim Sundays 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Mason County District Library: Ludington branch, 217 East Ludington Ave • 231-843-8465

Scottville branch, 204 East State Street, Scottville • 231-757-2588

Shopping in downtown Ludington or Scottville

West Shore Community College - Recreation Center pool, 3000 North Stiles • 231-845-5543

West Shore Community Ice Arena, 3000 North Stiles • 231-843-9712

## **Where can we play disc golf (Frisbee golf?)**

---

Mason County Pumped Storage Park

US-31 to S. Pere Marquette Hwy (Old 31), south 0.5 mile to a right on Chauvez Rd, 3.5 miles to entrance on left (should see sign), courses begin near picnic shelter. If gate closed, park in gravel lot across from gate, go left to path which joins Beauty at #8. \$1 per day/group donation requested. Tire It Wholesale, 388 N Jebavy, 231-843-3639, sells Innova/Discraft discs.

Leviathan

Take US 31 freeway to the Ludington / South Pere Marquette Highway exit. Turn left (north) heading towards Ludington 4 miles to the US10 intersection. Turn left (west) at the stoplight at US10, go .25 miles to Jebavy Drive. intersection (1st stoplight). Turn right, go .75 miles to 517 Jebavy Drive and you will be at the Leviathan disc golf course parking lot. North-west kitty corner from Tire-It-Wholesale, who sells Innova/Discraft discs.

## **Where are the area playgrounds & basketball courts & skate board park & mini-golf**

---

Waterfront Playground – Loomis Street

Local Elementary schools

Skate Plaza at Stearns Park

Jaycees Mini Golf at Stearns Park

## **Where can we go golfing?**

---

Hemlock Golf Club, 5105 West Decker Road, Ludington • 231-845-1300

Lakeside Links, 5369 West Chauvez Road, Ludington • 231-843-3660

Lincoln Hills Golf Club (semi-private) 1527 North Lakeshore Drive, Ludington • 231-843-4666

## **Do you have any public tennis courts?**

---

Yes, at the corner of Tinkham and Washington Avenues, at Oriole Field on Tinkham Avenue, Summit Park on South Lakeshore Drive and McPhail Field in Scottville.

## **Can you suggest a restaurant?** (sampling includes Ludington CVB member restaurants: [http://www.pureludington.com/visitors\\_dining.cfm](http://www.pureludington.com/visitors_dining.cfm))

---

House of Flavors, 402 West Ludington Ave • 231-845-5785

Dishing out the best homemade ice cream in the Midwest. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, featuring breakfast served all day, homemade soup, fresh roasted turkey and, of course, ice cream.

Jamesport Brewing Company, 410 South James Street • 231-845-2522

Ludington's only brew pub where you will find great food and service in a friendly, casual atmosphere. Serving lunch, dinner and cocktails, plus Jamesport's own handcrafted beers just blocks from the carferry.

Mancino's Pizza and Grinders, 5588 West U.S. 10 • 231-845-6666

Serving pizzas, grinders, salads, wings, wraps, pastas and much more. Delivery available. All bread and dough made fresh from scratch daily.

The Mitten Bar, 109 West Ludington Ave • 231-843-7616

Located in beautiful Ludington, Michigan Scotty's Restaurant is where The Mitten is a little place focused on Michigan crafted Beer, Wine & Spirits. Located in Downtown Ludington, the Mitten Bar a destination and culture that celebrates craft beer as well as artisan wine and fine spirits from all around Michigan. And it doesn't stop there...You'll also find live music and special events each week. Come celebrate the great Mitten state and all it has to offer at the Mitten Bar!

Old Hamlin Restaurant, 122 West Ludington Ave • 231-843-4251

Downtown Ludington, full menu. Summer breakfast, brunch and dinner buffets. American, Greek, Italian and Mexican specialties. Homemade breads and pies. Beer, wine and cocktails. Carry-out available. Voted Best Breakfast! Plenty of parking, within walking distance to beach and marina. Home of the "Beef Melt" sandwich featured in Rachel Ray Magazine. The Old Hamlin Restaurant is open April thru November.

PM Steamers, 502 West Loomis Street • 231-843-9555

Located across from the city marina, where you can enjoy a view of the many boats entering and leaving the harbor. Dine indoors or out. Dinner, cocktails and kid's menu available.

Scotty's Restaurant, 5910 East Ludington Ave • 231-843-4033

You'll find casual fine dining at its best. Scotty's features fine steaks and seafood, and has a full service bar. Please come and join us for lunch or dinner and enjoy a wonderful meal.

## **How can we get around if we don't have a car?**

---

Ludington Mass Transit Authority (limited service area) • 231-845-6218

Ludington Taxi • 231- 845-9693

Quinn's Towing & Car Rental • 231-757-9262

VanderHaag Car Rental • 231-757-2727

## **Where can we rent jet skis, canoes/bikes/winter sports equipment/etc?**

---

Action Rental, 3263 North Lakeshore Drive, Ludington • 231-845-5882

(jet skis, ATV's, snowmobiles, motorcycles, scooters, and more)

Baldwin Canoe Rental, 9117 Highway M-37, Baldwin • 800-272-3642

(canoes, rafts and kayaking on the PM River)

Barnhart's Marina, 6006 Barnhart Road • 231-843-8246

(pontoon boat rentals)

Hamlin Lake Boat Rentals, 3443 North Lakeshore Drive • 231-843-8497

(jet skis and more, rentals)

Ludington State Park Rentals • 231-845-8582

(watercraft, single, and tandem bikes are available for rent through Cedar Camp Store at the Ludington State Park from mid-May through mid-October / the park also has snowshoes available in the winter )

Pine River Paddlesport Center, 9590 S Grandview Highway M-37, Wellston • 231-862-3471

(canoes, kayak, rubber rafts, tubes, bike rentals, rock climbing wall & UpNorth store. All on the Pine River (fast moving & cold, but fun) and Manistee River)

PM Expeditions, 1649 South Pere Marquette Highway • 231-845-7285

(canoe and kayak rentals)

Provisions Sport Shop, 122 West Ludington Ave • 231-843-4150

(cross-country skis and snowshoe rental)

River Run Livery, 600 Main Street, Scottville • 231-757-2266

(canoes, tubing, and kayaking on the PM River)

Trailhead Bike & Kayak, 216 West Ludington Ave • 231-845-0545

(bike & kayak rental)

Waterside Marina (Hamlin Lake) 3298 North Lakeshore Drive • 231-843-8481

(jet skis and more for rent)

## **Do you have any art galleries?**

---

The Red Door, 310 West Ludington Ave • 231-392-4709

Todd & Brad Reed Photography, 114 West Ludington Ave • 231-843-0777

AM Galleries, 115 West Ludington Ave • 231-845-6648

Maude's Garage, 201 West Ludington Ave • corner of Ludington Ave and Rath Ave

Hen House Studios @ the Mermaids Perch, 416 South James Street • 231-690-6058

Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 South Harrison St • 231-843-2787

## **Where can we go for a bike ride?**

### **\*kid-friendly paths—no cars**

---

\*Cartier Park – one mile paved loop accessible off the corner of Bryant Road and Rath Avenue

\*Hart-Montague Bicycle Trail – 22.5 mile paved trail beginning at John Gurney Park in Hart, one mile east of the US 31 expressway, running south to Montague

\*Ludington State Park along paved pathways

North Lakeshore Drive to M -116 along Lake Michigan to the state park (route has a wide paved shoulder)

## **Where can we go hiking/walking?**

---

Waterfront Walkway – Extends from downtown Ludington, Waterfront Park, to the south end of William street, north to Stearns Park

Cartier Park – A one-mile paved loop is accessible from the corner of Bryant Road and north Rath Ave.

Ludington State Park – There are eight separately marked foot trails that wind for 18 miles throughout woods and over the dunes

Nordhouse Dunes – Nordhouse Dunes is a National Wilderness Area within the Manistee National Forest. Although only 3,450 acres, it is a unique ecosystem, and is the only designated Wilderness in the Lower Peninsula. From Ludington, take US 10 East to Stiles road and turn north (left). At Townline Road, turn right and then left on Quarterline Road. Turn west (left) on Nurnberg Road and follow to the end. Parking fee applies

Michigan Recreation Area – Take US 31 north from Scottville to Forest Trail road. Turn left (west) and drive approximately 8 miles. Parking fee applies

Scottville Riverside Park - US 10 East to Scottville, turn right at light and head south. The driveway to the park is on the left just past the Pere Marquette River bridge.

Ludington Area School Forest  
At the corner of Sherman Ave. and Tinkham

**Are there any seasonal u-pick farms in Mason County?**

- Strawberries / Orchard Market, 8413 North U.S. 31, Free Soil • 231-464-5534
- Blueberries / Couturier Blueberry Farm, 2687 North Jebavy Drive • 231-845-5664
- Blueberries / The Blueberry Patch, Fisher Road • 231-843-9561
- Peaches, Nectarines, Apricots / Christofferson Farms, 3441 Morton Road • 231-845-5831

**Where are the Murals Located in Ludington?**

- Rev. John Christensen ..... 110 West Ludington Ave, Masonic Temple, West Wall
- Freedom Festival..... 111 West Ludington Ave
- First Snow..... 201 South Rath Ave
- Ludington’s Own ..... 301 South James St
- Father Marquette ..... 323 South James St
- Hamlin Nostalgia ..... 3611 North Jebavy Dr
- Ludington’s Fountain of Youth and Oswald Crumb.... 106 North Rath Ave
- Saputo’s Italian Market..... 103 West Ludington Ave
- Ludington, A Place For All Seasons ..... 4079 W. US 10, West Wall
- Untitled (collage of scenes from the carferry era) ..... 217 East Ludington Ave, inside library
- Doorway to the Great Lakes ..... 322 West Ludington Ave
- Beach Scene ..... 316 South James St

**Quick Facts about the Ludington Area....**

Population	
Mason County	28,705
City of Ludington	8,076
City of Scottville	1,214
-2010 U.S. Census data	

Climate		Average Temperatures	
	<u>Time of Year</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Minimum</u>
	January	29 degrees F	19 degrees F
	April	53 degrees F	37 degrees F
	July	77 degrees F	60 degrees F
	October	57 degrees F	42 degrees F
	Average annual precipitation	32 inches	
	Average annual snowfall	90 inches	