

Editor's Note



Michigan is the last of the states we spotlight this year—last, but not least. Known as the Great Lakes State, Michigan is almost completely surrounded by water. That makes it an attractive destination for a water sign (Pisces) like me.

I have fond memories of a trip to Michigan years ago when I rented a cabin on a less-than-great (that is, rather small) lake with two friends from college. That was before the Internet existed as a vast source of information on vacation rentals, so we had no idea how small and rustic our little log cabin—rented over the phone—would turn out to be. We declared it “cozy” (rather than cramped, not to mention shabby) and decided not to spend much time in it.

Although the interior of the cabin was disappointing, its surroundings were lovely. A small rowboat came with the cabin, and we used it to row around the lake, sometimes drifting aimlessly (we were on vacation after all), the fluffy clouds above us and their equally hypnotic reflections in the water. We also ventured out to state parks near Lake Michigan. (Obviously, we were more impressed with that huge lake than with the small lake near the cabin.) We climbed huge sand dunes along the shore of Lake Michigan, the warm sand shifting under our feet as we struggled up to the top of the giant mounds. There we stood in the cooling wind and looked out on the blue expanse of water stretched to the horizon.

The next time I take a trip to Michigan, I hope to go to Mackinac Island (pictured on the cover), described as a peaceful, relaxing place because motorized vehicles are banned from this island. Known for its natural beauty and lovely Victorian buildings, Mackinac Island also has a reputation for producing good fudge; it has many fudge and candy shops, some of them dating back to the 1880s. (I have a notorious sweet tooth, so I imagine I would check out many of these shops.)

Whatever your zodiac sign or tastes might be, Michigan can hold your interest. It is a state with rugged natural beauty, industrial significance, and an important musical history. You can read more about Michigan in the feature article, and use the lesson plan as a means of “Exploring Michigan.” We hope you’ll enjoy yourself.

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