

EXPLORING THE COMMUNITY

U-M Events

Throughout the year, many exciting events take place on the University of Michigan campus. Information on most major U-M athletic, cultural, social and other events can be obtained at the [University of Michigan Campus Information Centers \(CICs\)](#).

Sports fans may want to purchase tickets to U-M athletic events by contacting the [Athletic Department Ticket Office](#). Buy early for the best selection! Please note that there are set deadlines to apply for season passes to certain sports, such as football, hockey, and men's basketball.

Ann Arbor

The University of Michigan is located right in the middle of Ann Arbor; there are no formal boundaries between the campus and the community. University properties and facilities are spread throughout the city, with the four campuses – Central, North, Medical and Athletic – placed among commercial and residential areas. Several of Ann Arbor's shopping areas are interspersed with campus buildings. The downtown area is a shopping and business district which is easily accessible on foot, by bicycle, or by bus. Some of Ann Arbor's attractions, such as the [Matthei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum](#), and many cultural events, are affiliated with the University. Other events, such as the Summer Arts Festival, are joint ventures between the city and the University. Several medium-sized companies and light industries are located in Ann Arbor. There are also more than 80 industrial research firms and several government laboratories. New industrial and residential areas are thriving on all sides of the Ann Arbor city limits. The city has its own bus system, newspaper, airport, community access television stations, and radio stations. In addition, it serves as the Washtenaw County seat and boasts an active political arena.

The diversity of people at the University makes Ann Arbor a distinctly cosmopolitan place to live. The social, cultural, intellectual, and aesthetic aspects of Ann Arbor mix old and new, conservative and liberal, conventional and experimental. A wide variety of religions, ethnic and national backgrounds, ages, and philosophies are represented in the population. Because of this, Ann Arbor has many well-informed and concerned residents. For instance, support for environmental preservation ranges from city-wide recycling to restrictions on the amount of salt the city may use for snow removal. Ann Arborites are extremely proud and aware of their history and have supported a movement to restore the old downtown area and the "Old West Side." Many older homes have been renovated and decorated, while office buildings have been sandblasted, cleaned, and painted. When the city decided it needed a new downtown firehouse, the original red brick one, long a landmark, became a children's museum, and a modern, low-key addition was built. The old train depot is now a restaurant, furnished with the original waiting room benches, baggage cart, and other memorabilia.

Entertainment and night life in Ann Arbor include much theater and music. New local bands debut weekly in the varied bars and coffeehouses. [The Ark](#) is a familiar stop for seasoned blues, folk, and jazz musicians. [The Michigan Theater](#) offers art films, classic films, and live concerts. [The University Musical Society](#) provides a wide variety of concerts, including famous symphony orchestras from around the world. Discount concert tickets from UMS are available at the beginning of the fall semester. The School of Music, and the Departments of Dance, Musical Theater, and Theater and Drama keep both students and Ann Arbor residents busy with many different performances, from operas to dance concerts to interactive theater. During the summer, [the Summer Arts Festival](#) at the Power Center hosts famous performers and singers, while Top of the Park offers nightly movies outdoors and live bands. To complete your evening on the town, Ann Arbor offers an incredible selection of restaurants - ranging from Prickly Pear Southwest Café, to The Blue Nile's Ethiopian delicacies, to Raja Rani's Indian food. However, the more traditional gourmand has nothing to worry about. Ann Arbor is home to many elegant restaurants with a variety of menus including Italian, French, German, seafood, and international cuisines. Additional restaurant information can be found at arborweb.org

Detroit Area

The City of Detroit, founded in 1701, is located 40 miles east of Ann Arbor. Its name is derived from the French words "d'etroit" meaning "of the strait." The city was so named because it is on the west bank of the Detroit River, a strait connecting Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. According to 2012 census estimates, Detroit has a population of approximately 706,585 making it the eighteenth largest city in the United States. The greater Detroit metropolitan area (Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties) population is over 4,292,060, making it the fourteenth largest metropolitan area in the nation.

Detroit is known as the "Motor City" because of its international automobile manufacturing and trade industry. Twenty-two percent of the nation's cars, trucks, and tractors are made there. World headquarters for General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler Group LLC are located in metropolitan Detroit. Detroit is also a steel and aluminum producing center that furnishes both raw metal and finished products for the automotive industry. In addition to the machine-tool and metal-stamping industries closely allied to automobile manufacturing, the Detroit economy is a leader in the production of paints, non-electrical machinery and automation equipment, pharmaceuticals, rubber products, synthetic resins and garden seed.

Detroit is an international center of transportation and trade. The opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 allowed Detroit to become a major port. Today, 60 steamship lines operate out of the city, shipping materials worldwide. [Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport](#) is among the world's largest air transportation hubs.. Located 18 miles southwest of downtown, the airport and its regional partners offer service to more than 160 non-stop destinations around the globe. Detroit is served by six interstate highways and additional limited access expressways, making the freeway system one of the most efficient in the country. The city is connected to Windsor, Ontario, by the [Ambassador Bridge](#) and by the [Windsor-Detroit Tunnel](#). Visitors traveling to Windsor from the United States are required to present an approved travel document in order to cross the border.

As a major metropolitan area, the greater Detroit area has many attractions. Among the institutions of higher learning located there are Wayne State University, the University of Detroit, the Detroit Institute of Technology and the University of Michigan, Dearborn. Among Detroit's cultural highlights are its musical organizations and museums. [The Detroit Symphony Orchestra](#) is one of the nation's premier musical organizations.. Also, a distinctive, popular musical genre that had its beginning in the Detroit recording industry is known as the "Motown" sound.

Museums such as the [Detroit Institute of Arts](#), the Historical Museum, the Detroit Science Center, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the Cranbrook Academy of Art (in Bloomfield Hills) and The Henry Ford (in Dearborn) are nationally acclaimed. [The Detroit Zoo](#) is outstanding, and there are many municipal parks, beaches, and marinas. In the athletic arena, Detroit is home to professional teams in major league baseball ([the Tigers](#)), football ([the Lions](#)), ice hockey ([the Red Wings](#)), and men's basketball ([the Pistons](#)).

You can learn more about the Metropolitan Detroit Area at <http://www.visitdetroit.com/>.

Michigan

Michigan was admitted to the Union in 1837 as the 26th state. Since then, Michigan has granted constitutional autonomy to its public educational institutions. This has helped establish its flagship institutions of higher education as some of the strongest in the nation. Geographically, Michigan is comprised of two perpendicular peninsulas which are surrounded by four of the five great lakes: Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie. The state has varied topography and contains highly developed urban areas, as well as protected wilderness areas. Each region of the state has its own cultural flavor and economic base. You can find out more about travel and tourism opportunities in Michigan by contacting the [Michigan Parks and Recreation Division](#).