

# INSPIRATION GUIDE

ANN  
ARBOR  
AREA



DESTINATION  
**ANN  
ARBOR**



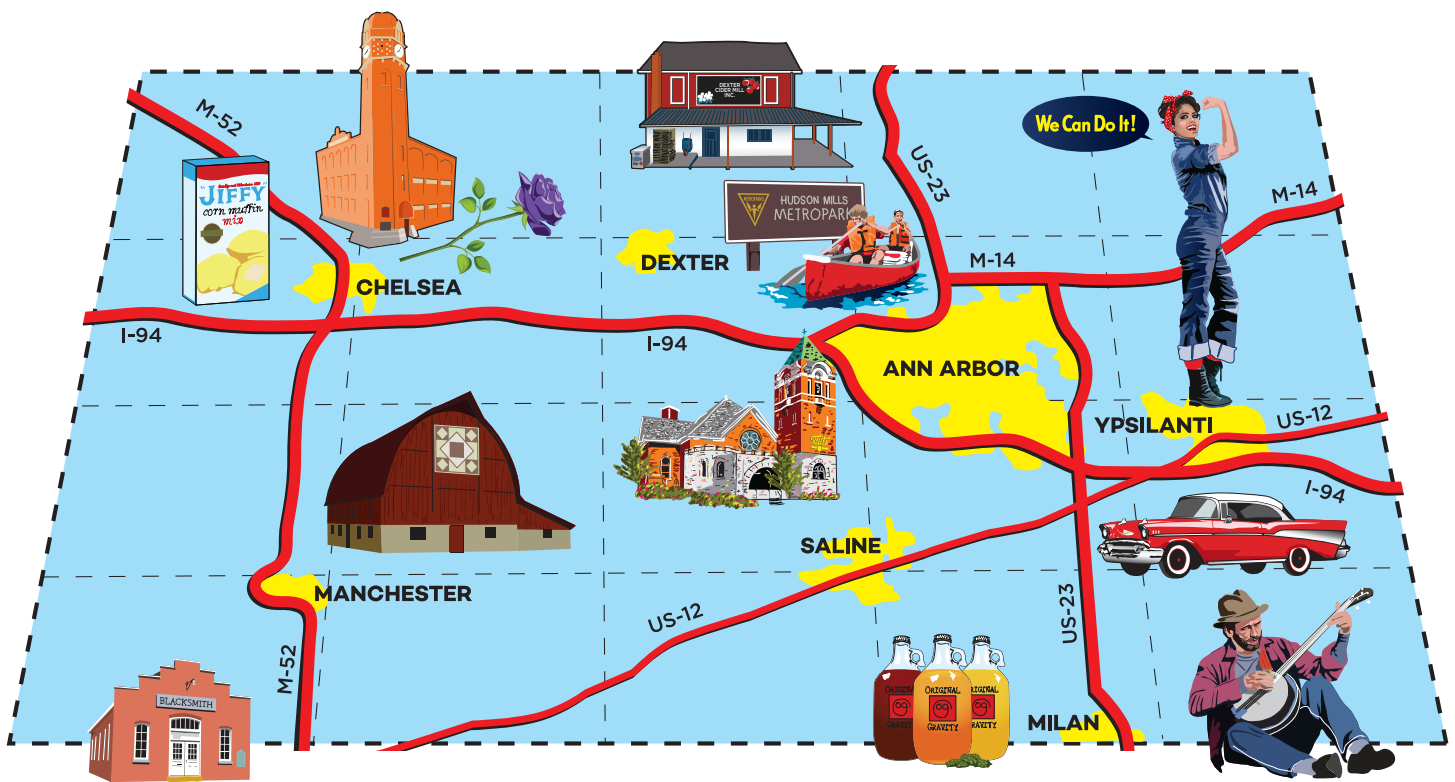
## HAIL TO OUR VISITORS!

Our welcome to the Ann Arbor area begins with a snapshot of the City of Ann Arbor. This quintessential college town overflows with options for a great visit, including several downtown districts. Kerrytown, a charming and eclectic shopping and dining destination, is home to the Farmers Market and Artisans Market, while the Main Street District offers a wide variety of options for dining, music, shopping, and more. The State Street District boasts some of our loveliest architecture, including the Michigan Theater, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. State Street borders the University of Michigan, and a stroll across campus takes you to the South University District, which features shops, eateries, and clubs that appeal to the college crowd. Many attractions are ADA-compliant, and roads and sidewalks are navigable by foot, bike, or wheelchair—we value accessibility for all.

The many diverse features of the community reflect the diversity of its populace. We are curious about the world, and we welcome visitors from everywhere. In this spirit of welcome and inclusion, LGBTQ+ Equality is a priority throughout the area.

# WELCOME





# SMALL CITIES, BIG APPEAL

Explore the charming, unique communities of Washtenaw County. Visit [annarbor.org](http://annarbor.org) for a deeper dive into the attractions in each city, as well as more information on the fairs, festivals, concerts, and other events they host.

## SALINE

Small town charm and big city amenities make this vibrant community a great destination for dining, shopping, and outdoor exploration. Among many events the city hosts, the Saline Celtic Festival each July is the biggest draw. The Highland Dance Competition and the many musical performances, including America's premier youth fiddling show band, the Saline Fiddlers, will keep your toes tapping.

## YPSILANTI

Nestled between Ypsilanti Township and Superior Township, this haven for artistic, eclectic entrepreneurs and artists is also a college town—it is home to Eastern Michigan University. Three main districts—Downtown, Depot Town, and West Cross Street—are historic areas infused with innovative, bohemian, local businesses, including theatres, cafes, and themed bars.

## CHELSEA

Visitors can stroll, shop, and dine in a picturesque downtown featuring beautiful Victorian architecture. Enjoy the outdoor Sculpture Walk, see a play at the Purple Rose Theatre, or tour the Chelsea Milling Company, home of JIFFY Mix. A vibrant music scene includes Sounds & Sights, with over 70 bands booked each summer! Nature lovers can hike, ski, bike, and fish at the 20,000-acre Waterloo Recreation Area.

## MILAN

Enjoy coffee made from beans roasted on-site or beer brewed locally as you explore this charming city with an agricultural heritage. Shop historic downtown and enjoy a beverage in the social district. Stroll the tree-lined streets or explore more than 200 acres of beautifully maintained parks. From April to November, you can share in the excitement of a drag race at the Milan Dragway.

## DEXTER

This small riverside town offers many tempting options. The historic Main Street district includes shops, eateries, and several craft breweries, while networks of trails and parks offer opportunities to bike, hike, and walk. Canoeing or kayaking on the Huron River and Mill Creek are also popular activities.

## MANCHESTER

The historic downtown features 19th century Italianate architecture. Visitors can enjoy specialty mercantile stores, a historic blacksmith shop, modern eateries, and plaques detailing Manchester's history. The surrounding lush landscapes, including Sharon Mills County Park, waterfront parks on the River Raisin, and the Manchester Shared-Use Trail, beckon nature lovers to birdwatch, hike, and bike.



# READY TO DO IT ALL?

## DINE OUT AND GO OUT

Whatever your budget or cuisine preference, the Ann Arbor area has more than 400 tempting options to please every palate. From longtime favorite Real Seafood in Ann Arbor to local hotspot The Village Tap in Manchester to quaint Dexter Cider Mill, we have you covered. The international food scene is thriving here, with fare from Ethiopia, Korea, China, Japan, India, Italy, Spain, and more. Options for American cuisine abound, from the hottest trends in fine dining to some of the best burgers ever. Many eateries feature locally sourced ingredients and most have vegan and vegetarian dishes. And here are some of the accolades: Chef Ji Hye Kim of Miss Kim was a 2022 semifinalist for the James Beard Foundation Outstanding Chef Award, while Frita Batidos often wins the “Best Burger” vote from Michigan Daily readers. For the sweet tooth, local bakeries and ice creameries provide a wide array of tasty treats. Care to imbibe? The craft beer culture here is thriving, and our cocktail bars celebrate drink mixing as an art.



## EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

The Ann Arbor area is a four-season destination for fun outdoors. Races for walkers and runners take place most of the year, and hiking in our many parks in the cities and outlying areas is refreshing anytime. The expansive park systems include jewels like Gallup Park, Dexter-Huron Metropark, and Hudson Mills Metropark; test your navigational skills at one of the orienteering courses many parks feature. At Nichols Arboretum, enjoy lovely gardens or hike a downhill trail to the Huron River. In the summer, cool off in one of the municipal swimming pools or Rolling Hills Water Park, or take a dip in one of the area's lakes. Opportunities for golf, disc golf, pickleball, and tennis abound, while paddle boating and kayaking keep you on the water. In the winter, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing provide a fun way to warm up. And for a fragrant hit of greenery and flowers any time of year, explore the conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens; outside trails wind past stunning natural features.







## GO SHOPPING

Lovely, walkable districts in each of our communities with unique, varied shops and boutiques—what's not to love? In Ann Arbor, Nickels Arcade, a glass-roofed walkway with shops on either side, has a Parisian flair, while the Main Street district is an enticing mix of shops, restaurants, cafes, and galleries. And why not spend an hour or so browsing in one of our independent bookstores, such as Serendipity Books in Chelsea or Black Stone Bookstore & Cultural Center in Ypsilanti? For work by local artists, explore Motawi Tileworks or WSG Gallery in Ann Arbor. And for foodies, there's nothing like the fabulous local produce available at the area's many farmers markets.



## GET CULTURED

Galleries, museums, performance venues—the Ann Arbor area has a flourishing appreciation for and support of creative endeavors. University of Michigan's offerings include the Museum of Art, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, and the newly remodeled Museum of Natural History. At the Ann Arbor Art Center, you can purchase artwork and jewelry crafted by local artisans or develop your own creative skills in a class or workshop. See Broadway performers at Dexter's Encore Musical Theatre Company, experience theater outdoors with Shakespeare in the Arb, or go for humor at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. And for perfect acoustics and stunning architecture, treat yourself to a concert or dance performance at Hill Auditorium. If you prefer your music alfresco, tap your foot at the Milan Music Festival or one of the many other outdoor performance options in the area.

## FIVE CAN'T-MISS EVENTS

It's a challenge to limit the list of premier annual happenings in the area to five! Visit Events at [annarbor.org](http://annarbor.org) and create your own list of must-do events. Here are some of ours:

**ANN ARBOR ART FAIR** – Nearly 1,000 artists from around the country set up shop for three days in July. Musical entertainment and food vendors enliven the scene.

**ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL** – For more than three weeks, free events at Top of the Park bring music, dance, movies, acrobatics, and more to the community.

**OKTOBERFEST** – Visit downtown Saline for this wunderbar event in September that celebrates German culture, food, and music.

**SOUNDS & SIGHTS ON THURSDAY NIGHTS** – Throughout the summer, entertainers and musicians perform at stages throughout historical downtown Chelsea.

**YPSIGLOW** – Light-filled luminary processions, public art installations, street performances, music, and dancing light up Ypsilanti in this late October celebration.





## AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

With decades of experience accommodating more than 100,000 fans for every U-M Football home game, Ann Arbor knows how to host visitors! Whether you are mounting a trade show or a figure skating competition, we are a great destination for your next business or sporting event. Superior facilities for meetings and conventions throughout the area are ready to welcome you, and we can provide the guidance you need.

Our knowledgeable sales team at Destination Ann Arbor is eager to help you create a five-star experience for your attendees. We can assist with planning, site selection, transportation, dining and catering options, hotels, entertainment, and more, every step of the way. Visit the Meetings page at [annarbor.org](http://annarbor.org) to download our "Meetings Planner Overview" and "14 Reasons to Bring Your Group to the Ann Arbor Area."

Accommodations in the area range from cozy bed and breakfasts to luxury lodgings downtown to large hotels conveniently situated minutes from highways. Visit the Hotels page at [annarbor.org](http://annarbor.org) for complete listings and enticing offers.

# AREA ATTRACTION

## COLLEGE TOWN USA

Say "college town" and the first thought that pops into the heads of many is "Ann Arbor." Higher education offerings in the area include Eastern Michigan University, Concordia University, and Washtenaw Community College. And of course, there's University of Michigan, which was named "#1 Best College in America" by Money Magazine in 2022. The schools all have venues—including museums and theaters—and host events that are open to the public. And when it comes to college sports, we lead the country—U-M Football is one of many elite programs in the area.



**VISIT [ANNARBOR.ORG](http://ANNARBOR.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION. SCANNING THE QR CODE WILL TAKE YOU THERE!**

315 West Huron Street, Suite 340, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 | [www.AnnArbor.org](http://www.AnnArbor.org) | 734.995.7281

