

Great time to chill in Traverse City

Thousands of Chicagoland visitors have already discovered that Traverse City -- Michigan's "True North" -- is a great summer destination. But those magnificent views of sky, water and shore don't disappear after Labor Day -- and neither does the fun!

In fact, autumn and winter may well be the best time to enjoy the beauty and adventure of this magical place. In this quiet, intimate season, experience Traverse City the way the locals do, when the shopping and dining are more relaxed and people can take the time to meet and chat.

Magical Autumn in Traverse City: Looking for a new spot to do some color touring? In Traverse City visitors don't have to give up the pleasures of good food, wine and entertainment in order to enjoy the beauty of an autumn landscape. And the region's characteristic landscape of rolling ridges, lush forests and wide expanses of open water are the perfect backdrop for fall color. Some of the most dramatic places to enjoy the annual display are at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, along the narrow Old Mission Peninsula or in Antrim County's glacier-scoured Chain of Lakes region.

Of course, if you really want to experience the full sensory richness of autumn, listen to the crunch of leaves, breathe the crisp autumn air and smell the spicy aroma of apples and woodsmoke. Hiking or cycling one of the region's many non-motorized trails, or paddling a canoe or kayak down one of its gentle rivers, are great ways to have an intimate encounter with Traverse City's fall beauty.

Shopping, Dining and Wine-Tasting: Unlike many other "Up North" resort communities, Traverse City doesn't shut down at the end of summer. Its bustling downtown shopping district boasts over 150 boutiques, shops and galleries full of undiscovered trea-

asures. A few blocks away is the Village at Grand Traverse Commons, a charming Victorian architectural wonder surrounded by acres of parkland that boasts some of the region's most imaginative shops.

Fall and winter are also a splendid time to enjoy some of Traverse City's famed cuisine. Thanks to its award-winning wines and talented local chefs, the community now enjoys an international reputation as a place of surprisingly sophisticated food and drink.

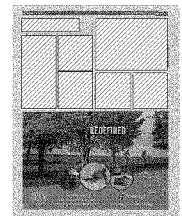
Winter: A Snowsports Wonderland: As winter settles in and the snow begins to fall across this glacier-carved landscape, the entire region becomes a sparkling white playground for outdoor winter sports.

When it comes to skiing, tubing and snowboarding, the region's premiere full-service winter destination is undoubtedly Shanty Creek Resorts, a 4,500-acre recreational complex in the beautiful Chain of Lakes region about 30 miles northeast of Traverse City. "Ski" Magazine rated Shanty Creek the Midwest's number-one destination in value, dining, lodging, weather and après ski activities.

Other skiers have discovered the fun of staying closer to town, taking advantage of low lodging rates and a broad choice of shopping, dining and entertainment options while skiing at Traverse City's two day ski areas, Mt. Holiday and Hickory Hills.

The region is probably best known for the quality of its winter "silent sports" -- snowshoe hiking and cross-country skiing -- thanks to its vast acreage of forest and parkland.

To learn about other winter adventures, activities and attractions in the Traverse City area, contact Traverse City Tourism at 1-800-TRAVERSE or online at www.TraverseCity.com.



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Fall cycling in the Old Mission Peninsula vineyards. (Photo courtesy of Tony Demin)