

BRIDGES & DAMS

VISIT
MANISTEE COUNTY
michigan

How can you not love the beauty and engineering that goes into these amazing structures? Manistee County is home to 3 vehicular, 3 railroad and 1 massive pedestrian bridge along with 2 hydroelectric dams, 1 egg-take/salmon harvest weir and 1 historic bridge site.



Preview this tour with amazing drone footage!



3-4

HOURS

10

TOUR
STOPS

75

MILES

@manisteehistoricmuseum

Maple Street Swing Bridge: 1873
The first iron bridge with a
160' span, built for a cost of \$18,000

OFFICIAL TOUR STOPS

Tour Stops
Along The Route

Recommended Route

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Detour route to
great stops off M-22

Hiking Trails

Photo Stop

Foodie Stop

Craft Beer,
Wine, Spirits

Historic Site

Shopping Stop

Places to Stay

Golf Course

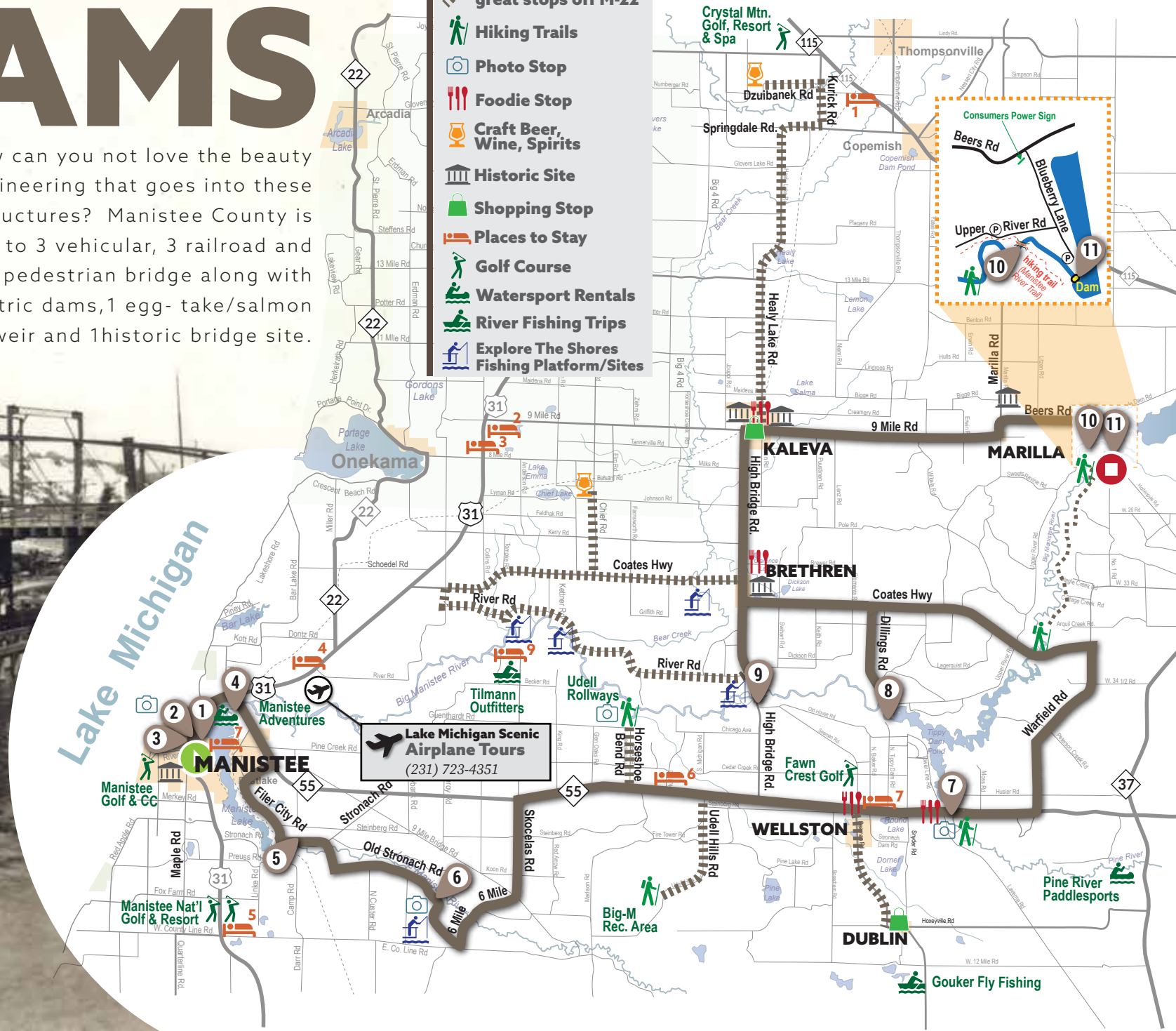
Watersport Rentals

River Fishing Trips

Explore The Shores
Fishing Platform/Sites

Southeast Manistee County

Lake Michigan



STAY

along the Bridges
and Dams Tour



Crystal Adventures

17227 Vondra Rd,
Thompsonville | (231) 378-2831



VACATION RENTAL

Crystal Vacation Rentals

8127 Chippewa Hwy,
(231) 864-4020



Inn at the Alpine

8127 Chippewa Hwy,
Bear Lake | (231) 889-4281



Little River Casino Resort

2700 Orchard Hwy, Manistee
(866) 466-7338



Manistee National Golf & Resort

4797 Grant Hwy, | (231) 398-0123



Manistee Outpost Motel

12150 Caberfae, Manistee
(231) 723-7500



Northwoods Cabins

17448 Caberfae, Wellston
(231) 848-4573



S.S. City of Milwaukee

99 Arthur St, Manistee
(231) 723-3587



Tilman Outfitters

2626 Bialik Rd, Manistee
(231) 510-9345



Start

Recommended Start Location: Downtown Manistee

Begin your Bridges and Dams tour in the heart of downtown Manistee at the Swing Bridge - which can be viewed from the second location on the **Memorial Bridge** - which is the US-31/Big Manistee River crossing.



1 SWING BRIDGE

GPS: 44.251572, -86.317858

This Swing Bridge services the Marquette Rail system across the Manistee River. This plate girder swing bridge is a rare structure type in Michigan, and is one of the few remaining functional bridges in the state. Watching one of the 600'+ Great Lakes shipping liners navigate this tight opening is a sight to see. The bridge is still in good working order today and is an intersection point for the area's industrial rail freight and shipping.

If you are gazing out to view the Swing Bridge, you are probably standing atop the 2nd attraction on the tour, the Memorial Bridge.



2 MEMORIAL BRIDGE

GPS: 44.250327, -86.319124

Constructed in 1933, the Memorial Bridge is the second bridge constructed connecting the north and south sides of Manistee. Its double leaf electric bascule construction was cutting edge during its construction and is known throughout the state as one of the most extensively decorated bascule bridges in Michigan.

The bridge recently underwent substantial rehabilitation to preserve the ornate art deco elements that make this bridge one of the most spectacular in Michigan.

Smith Street Bridge: 1894

Hand-operated, drum-bearing swing bridge that existed prior to the construction of the current memorial bridge.



Walk the Downtown

Along the Manistee Riverwalk

Moving between the Memorial Bridge and the Maple Street Bridge, we recommend a walk along the Manistee Riverwalk where you can enjoy pleasure boats running up and down the Manistee River Channel. Don't forget to also check out the downtown area, home to plenty of shops and foodie stops.



3 MAPLE STREET BRIDGE

GPS: 44.248344, -86.323673

It's the fourth bridge that has been constructed crossing the Manistee River at Maple Street. The Maple Street Bridge is a double leaf electric bascule bridge and was constructed in 1962 replacing two iron swing bridges and a wooden swing bridge. The first bridge was constructed on this site in 1866, and has been a lifeline between north and south Manistee ever since. One of the most unique characteristics about this bridge is the single massive roller bearing for the approach and spans. Even though this bridge lacks the same architectural characteristics of the Memorial Bridge just up the river, it is still a unique bridge with a unique and interesting history.

Cross the Maple Street Bridge and make your way to US-31 North. Traveling approximately 3 miles down US-31, you will reach the Instalaunch Cabins and Campground. Turning into this area, you will be able to view the Manistee River Train Bridge, the next stop on the self-guided tour.



4 MANISTEE RIVER TRAIN BRIDGE

GPS: 44.248344, -86.323673

The Manistee River Train Bridge is a classic truss bridge used for years to transport pedestrians and freight across rivers and gorges. This bridge, perhaps not unique to the untrained eye, has many unique architectural details such as the dropped bottom truss chord and unusual detailing on the bridge's struts. The best location to view this bridge is from the parking area in the Instalaunch Campground area.

Continue North on US-31 to the M-55 intersection and proceed east to Eastlake

Manistee River Train Bridge



AREA RIVER WATERSPORT OUTFITTERS & RENTALS

Experience these wild & scenic rivers from the water - rent a raft, canoe or kayak from any of these great outfitters and float the rivers in Manistee County this year!

Manistee Adventures

(231) 233-3265

231 W. Parkdale Ave.

Offering family oriented Canoe, Kayak, & Tube trips on the lower section of the Big Manistee River and more challenging Canoe & Kayak trips on the Little Manistee River. Located on US-31 near the Manistee River Train Bridge.



Pine River

Paddlesports Center

(231) 862-3471

9590 M-37, Wellston

Facilitating full-tilt family-fun on the magic of the Manistee and Pine, Michigan's premiere paddlesport rivers. From rafts to SUP's, canoes and kayaks, we are uniquely positioned to fit you to craft that are both size and experience appropriate. Located on M-37, 10 minutes from Wellston.



Wilderness Canoe Trips

(231) 885-1485

6052 Riverview Rd., Mesick

Big Manistee River floats north of the Hodenpyl Dam by canoe, kayak, raft or tube for beginners or experienced. Two- to five-hour trips, daily or overnight up to 7 days. Build your own trip. Located on M-37 in Mesick 15 minutes east of the Hodenpyl Dam area.



AREA RIVER FISHING GUIDES

Float the rivers and fish with some of the region's most experienced guides.

Tilman Outfitters

(231) 510-9345 | tilmannoutfitters.com

Big Manistee River fishing trips and Lake Michigan sport fishing charter service. Salmon, steelhead, browns and trout! Lodging is available and all fishing equipment provided.

Gouker Fly Fishing

(231) 510-5859 | goukerflyfishing.com

Offers a wide range of fly fishing opportunities on all 3 major rivers. 4 season, full time guide service takes great pride in teaching all aspects of fishing and preservation.

5 STRONACH RAIL BRIDGE

GPS: 44.210028, -86.267776

Constructed in 1887, the Stronach Rail Bridge is one of the oldest bridges still in service. Its main span is 124 feet and is frequently used by CSX Rail. The bridge's classic lines highlight a typical v-lacing bridge structure, however, a unique feature is the wooden abutments that are still intact to this day.

Continue down Stronach Road until you reach Old Stronach Road. Proceed East towards the Little Manistee River Weir.

6 LITTLE MANISTEE RIVER WEIR/EGG-TAKE

GPS: 44.197245, -86.197513

The Little Manistee Weir is an egg-take and salmon harvest facility which is operated by the Fisheries Division-Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The weir is used to block fish on the Little Manistee River in the spring and fall of the year. Steelhead eggs are taken in the spring and Chinook Salmon eggs are taken in the fall at the Little Manistee Weir. The eggs taken at the weir are sent to State Fish Hatcheries where they are raised and stocked all over Michigan. Eggs are also supplied to several other states. This is a frequent drop-in location for kayakers and paddlers looking to venture out on the Little Manistee River. The little Manistee River Weir is also an Explore the Shores site, and more information is available online at: VisitManisteeCounty.com.

Since you are deep in the heart of the Manistee National Forest, we recommend continuing on Old Stronach Road until reaching 6 mile. Here you will turn north and cross the Little Manistee River and the 6 mile bridge before continuing north along Skocelas Road until reaching M-55. Turn East, and head for the Pine River Crossing and Cooley Bridge, one of the most spectacular iron bridge structures in Michigan.

Hiking Stop Check out Big-M or the Udell Rollways

Two great spots to get out and stretch your legs can be found at the Udell Rollways at the end of Horseshoe Bend Road - there is a great nature area and boardwalk to the river along with an 18-hole disc golf course. If you are looking for more of a traditional hike, you will want to swing into Big-M along Udell Hills Road. This is an incredible spot to hike and is known throughout the Midwest for its world-class, single-track mountain biking and groomed fat biking and cross-country skiing during the winter months.



@manisteepuremichigan
The Weir along
the Little Manistee River



Watch the DNR in
action at the Weir
during the Egg-Take.

WELLSTON FOODIE STOPS

Annie's Kozy Kitchen

(231) 848-4632 | 16938 Caberfae Hwy.

Delicious home cookin', big portions, great service, friendly atmosphere. Open 7 days. Daily specials on Facebook. Located on M-55 in the heart of Wellston.

Redneck Yacht Club

(231) 848-4993 | 19327 Caberfae Hwy.

A great menu with all your favorites in our new restaurant! Build your own burgers and pizza, try our Broasted Chicken and more! Located on M-55 just east of Wellston before crossing the Cooley Bridge.

@manisteepuremichigan

7 COOLEY BRIDGE

GPS: 44.222940, -85.904557



The Mortimer E. Cooley Bridge is one of the few "high-level bridges" in Michigan. It is one of Michigan's more rare truss bridge types with its ornate v-lacing and lattice framework. Many people will cross this bridge unaware of the substructure below the road. It really is worth your time to get out of the car and check it out. The quality of this bridge is so high, that local and state officials created a boardwalk and pathway to the underside of the bridge so visitors could admire the engineering from the river level. This is a must-see attraction if you are drawn to engineering marvels.

The Cooley Bridge was originally constructed in 1934 by the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Company and underwent major rehabilitation to preserve the structure in 1989.

Shopping Stop
Dublin General Store
(231) 859-4121 | 18372 Hoxeyville Rd.

Known for their fresh varieties of Jerky, the Dublin General Store has been a local and traveler favorite for generations. Check out their newly built/modernized store in the heart of Dublin.

8 TIPPY DAM

GPS: 44.259917, -85.942671

Completed in 1918, Tippy Dam (known as Junction Hydro when it was built) was named after Charles W. Tippy, a board of directors chair for Consumers Power. Tippy is Consumers Energy's second largest hydro dam, producing up to 20,000 kilowatts and providing electricity to approximately 6,500 customers. Tippy Dam was known for its innovation and design when built, but today, most of the people you will find around Tippy are not there for a tour. They are there fishing the very popular "tailwaters" (the water immediately flowing from the dam) trying to land that large Salmon or Steelhead. Tippy's backwaters, almost twice the size of Hodenpyl's, is home to many outdoor recreation opportunities such as fishing, boating, and camping along the shores.

The best place to view the dam is on the northern side, where there is a boat launch area, kayak portage and parking area. This area is also frequently visited by fishermen during peak river fishing seasons.

You may also reach Tippy Dam from the south via Tippy Dam Road off of M-55. However, no vehicles or pedestrians are allowed to cross the Dam, therefore, to easily continue to the next attractions on the list, we recommend viewing Tippy Dam from the northern side.

Hiking Stop Manistee River Trail from the Red Bridge Trailhead

It is one of the most popular hiking segments in the Lower Peninsula. The Manistee River Trail is known for its spectacular views of the Big Manistee River on a stretch that runs between the Hodenpyl Dam and the start of the Backwaters of the Tippy Dam Pond. This segment can be completed in a day (about 9 miles) if you are up for a challenge, but most make it a 1- to 2-night trip adding on the North Country Trail segment to the west. You can access trail maps and chart more online at VisitManisteeCounty.com

EXPLORING OUR HISTORIC SITES

If you like the bridges and dams along this self-guided tour, you will want to be sure to check out the historic sites along the way.

Brethren Heritage Museum Corner of Cart Ave. & Amick St.

Two buildings from the Red Bridge area, an icehouse and store, have been relocated and combined into the present museum showcasing area artifacts and historic collections.

Kaleva Bottle House

(231) 362-3481 | 14551 Wuoski Ave.

The Kaleva Bottle House is always a popular tourist attraction and is included in the National Historic Register and Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Kaleva Train Depot

(231) 362-3481 | Walta St.

This completely restored depot for the Manistee and Northeastern Railroad was constructed in 1908 after the previous depot had been burned down some years earlier. Today it houses several area artifacts with a concentration on railroad memorabilia.

Marilla Museum & Pioneer Place 9911 Marilla Rd.

Located in the former Marilla Schoolhouse, the Marilla Museum & Pioneer Place includes a trapper's log cabin; log house from Yates; as well as several displays pertaining to Marilla area history.

Bear Lake Historical Museum 7750 Main St.

Featuring displays on the businesses, industry and people of the Village of Bear Lake. The museum is located in the former Methodist Church building.

Arcadia Area Historial Museum 3340 Lake St.

Housed in a beautiful Victorian home built circa 1880s, the museum contains artifacts, furniture and history of Arcadia.

BACK IN MANISTEE

Manistee County Historical Museum

(231) 723-5531 | 425 River St. Manistee

Home to a vast collection of historic artifacts from the founding of Manistee through today. The museum also features an extensive genealogical room and historic photo archive as well.

@manisteehistoricmuseum

9 HIGH BRIDGE GPS: 44.267207, -86.014130

While High Bridge is no longer at this specific location, a marker denotes the area where the former structure once stood. High Bridge was

constructed in 1889 for the Chicago and West Michigan Railway. At the time of its construction, it was the highest rail bridge in all of Michigan. By the early 1910s, the bridge was owned by the Pere Marquette Railroad and went from Grand Rapids to Traverse City. It was later acquired by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. In the late 1940s a different route was established and the structure was disassembled in the fall of 1955.

River Fishing/Viewing Stops Enjoy the four Explore The Shores Sites along the Big Manistee River & Bear Creek

Found along the waterways of Manistee County, the Explore the Shores sites on the Big Manistee River feature a universally accessible fishing/viewing platform along with informational kiosk. These are great spots to stop and enjoy takeout from an area foodie stop or if you just enjoy the sound of the river and occasional paddler floating by. Continuing along the outlined detour route just off of Coates Highway, you will come across the Spirit of the Woods Conservation Club with a little over 1 mile of walking trails on a beautiful switchback along Bear Creek.

Brew & Spirit Stop Northern Natural Cider House & Winery (231) 889-0064 | 7220 Chief Rd. Kaleva

A little out of the way, but all the best places are! Northern Natural Cider House & Winery can be found in the farm community of Kaleva, on Chief Road. Several varieties of hard ciders on tap, Growlers & Howlers available for quick grab-n-go. Be sure to check out their trail network and disc golf too!



Foodie Stop Traks Bar & Grill (231) 477-5944 | 5073 N. Highbridge Rd. Brethren

“The Bar you can take your family to!”

Their fresh pizza is an old ‘family secret’ and they’re not giving out the recipe. Catch a game on their big screen TVs or teach the family how to play pool. They also have a great Friday night fish fry, awesome burgers, fresh salads, daily soup specials made from scratch and some of the best broasted chicken around!

10 LITTLE MAC FOOT BRIDGE GPS: 44.365589, -85.826606

Part of the 11-mile trail project to create the Manistee River Trail in 1992, the Suspension Bridge, or “Little Mac” Foot Bridge is a 245’ pedestrian foot bridge completed in 1996. It is the largest wooden suspension bridge in the Lower Peninsula.

11 HODENPYL DAM GPS: 44.364065, -85.820260

Completed in 1925, Hodenpyl Dam is part of Consumers Energy's network of 13 hydroelectric dams in Northern Lower Michigan. Hodenpyl Dam was named after Anton G. Hodenpyl, one of the founders of what was then Consumers Power. It produces up to 17,000 kilowatts (about 48 million kilowatt-hours per year), enough electricity to serve the annual power needs of 5,000 Michigan households. When Hodenpyl Dam was created, it flooded an area known as “Fletcher Valley” which is now known as Hodenpyl Dam Pond. The pond is approximately 8.5 miles long and 1.5 miles wide. The Federal Electric Regulatory Commission mandated that the land surrounding the pond be used for outdoor recreation. Today many boating and watersports enthusiasts frequent the area throughout the summer months. It is a fantastic area to spend the day with your boat and a group of friends, relaxing on the water.

END of self-guided tour, from the Dam Parking area, you can backtrack to Beers road - turning west until reaching Marilla Road - turning south, and west on 9 Mile Road until reaching US-31 where you can return to Manistee.

Brew & Spirit Stop Iron Fish Distillery (231) 378-3474 14234 Dzuibanek Rd. Thompsonville

This spirited destination is Michigan's first farm-to-still distillery. Experience life on the farm sipping seasonal craft cocktails around the outdoor firepit, enjoy yard games and live entertainment. Expect everything fresh and local from the wood-fired pizza to the simple syrup in your cocktail. Everything is sourced from the region and made on-site.

Foodie Stop Kaleva Tavern (231) 362-3161 | 9289 Walta St. Kaleva

Grab a quick bite in Kaleva on your way through, they feature a classic diner style menu and have been a community gathering spot since 1936.

Shopping Stop Kaleva Art Gallery (231) 362-2749 | 14449 Wuoski Ave. Kaleva

The Kaleva Art Gallery cooperative was started in 1997 and has occupied this building, the oldest in Kaleva, since 2004 with a mission to showcase local artists' works.