

NATURAL WONDERS

M-22 & The Southern Section of the Lake Michigan Coastal Tour

Traverse the shores of Lake Michigan and explore our Natural Wonders. These nine sites were selected as the region's top Natural Wonders because they have an amazing story that we want to share with you. From the artesian wells in Onekama, to the picturesque views atop Old Baldy, we take you on a walk, hike and drive along the Lake Michigan shoreline to the beautiful coastal towns that dot the map along our Natural Wonders Tour.

2-4 HOURS | 10 TOUR STOPS | 38 MILES



Preview this tour with amazing drone footage!



MANISTEE COUNTY
michigan

@manisteepuremichigan

MAP KEY

OFFICIAL TOUR STOPS

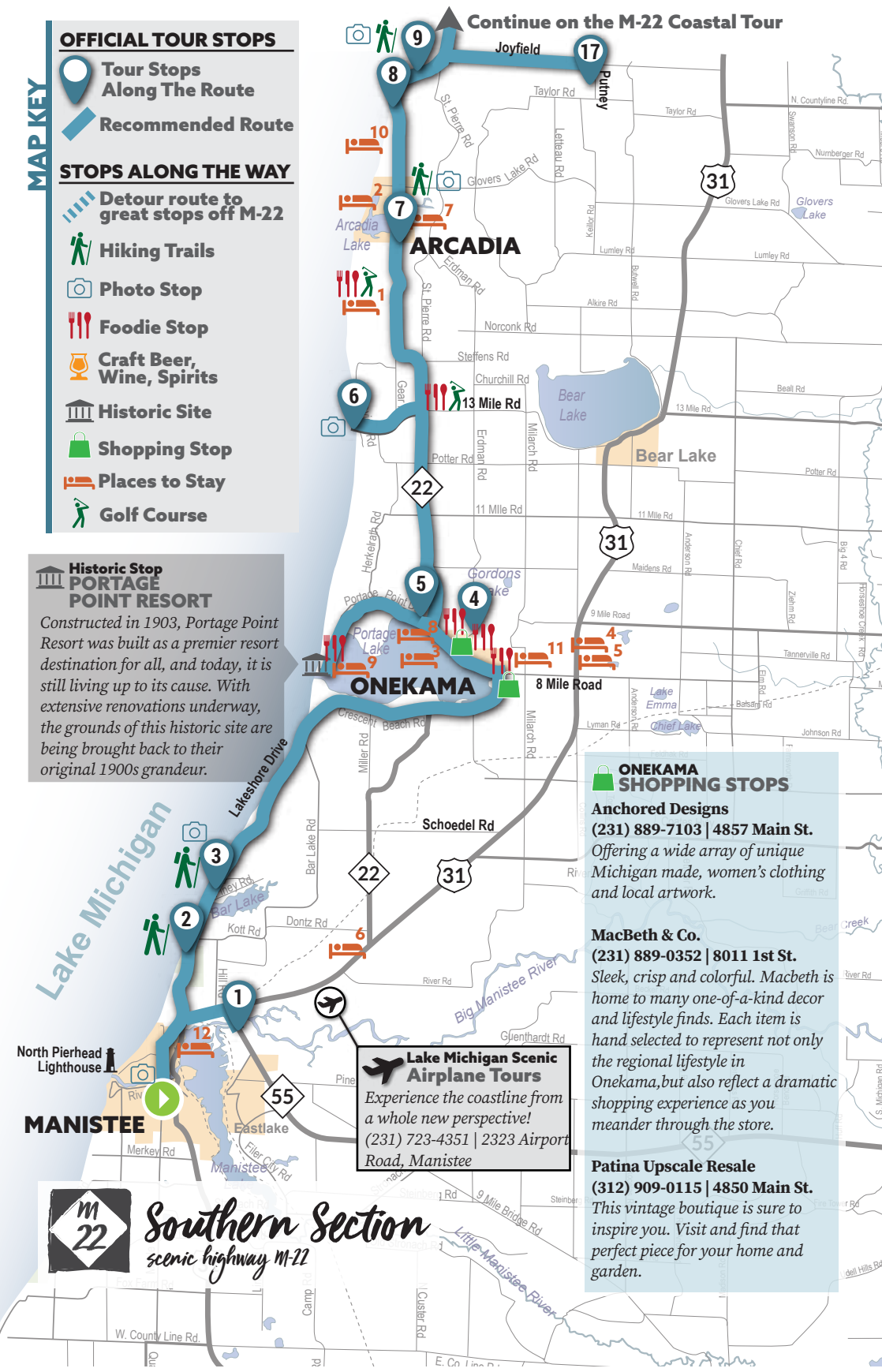
- Tour Stops Along The Route
- Recommended Route

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

Historic Stop PORTAGE POINT RESORT

Constructed in 1903, Portage Point Resort was built as a premier resort destination for all, and today, it is still living up to its cause. With extensive renovations underway, the grounds of this historic site are being brought back to their original 1900s grandeur.



ONEKAMA SHOPPING STOPS

Anchored Designs
(231) 889-7103 | 4857 Main St.
Offering a wide array of unique Michigan made, women's clothing and local artwork.

MacBeth & Co.
(231) 889-0352 | 8011 1st St.
Sleek, crisp and colorful. Macbeth is home to many one-of-a-kind decor and lifestyle finds. Each item is hand selected to represent not only the regional lifestyle in Onekama, but also reflect a dramatic shopping experience as you meander through the store.

Patina Upscale Resale
(312) 909-0115 | 4850 Main St.
This vintage boutique is sure to inspire you. Visit and find that perfect piece for your home and garden.

Lake Michigan Scenic Airplane Tours

Experience the coastline from a whole new perspective!
(231) 723-4351 | 2323 Airport Road, Manistee

1
Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club
14710 Northwood Hwy, Arcadia
(800) 494-8666

2
Arcadia House B&B
17304 Northwood Hwy, Arcadia
(231) 889-4394

3
Coho Resort & Cabins
8175 Portage St, Onekama
(231) 889-4253

4 VACATION RENTAL
Crystal Vacation Rentals
(231) 864-4020

5
Inn at the Alpine
8127 Chippewa Hwy, Bear Lake
(231) 889-4281

6
Little River Casino Resort
2700 Orchard Hwy, Manistee
(866) 466-7338

7
Pleasant Valley Resort Motel
17229 Northwood Hwy,
Arcadia | 231-889-4194

8
Portage Lake Motel
4714 Main St, Onekama
(231) 889-4921

9 VACATION RENTAL
Portage Point Resort
8567 Portage Point Drive,
Onekama | 231-889-7500

10
Sunset Valley Resort
18726 Burnham Dr, Arcadia
231-889-5987

11
Travelers Motel
5606 8 Mile Rd, Onekama
(231) 889-7076

12 VACATION RENTAL
West Shore Vacation Rentals
(231) 723-6599

Start

Recommended Start Location: Downtown Manistee

Begin your “Natural Wonders” tour in the heart of Downtown Manistee. Here you can explore the Big Manistee River Channel along the 2-mile Manistee Riverwalk - where there are 18 historic markers that explain much of the natural and industrial history that took place along this coastline.



1 TUNNEL OF TREES GPS: 44.256221, -86.288922

A half-mile stretch of graceful, towering willows form a Tunnel of Trees over Main Street at the intersection of M-55, just east of US-31 in Eastlake. To locals, this section of Main Street is better known as Bullfrog Highway, owing its nickname to the seasonal chorus of croaking bullfrogs from the adjacent Big Manistee River Peters Bayou area. Penny Park, an Explore the Shores location, can be accessed off nearby Gillespie Road, with a new boat launch and universally accessible playground. Improvements to the 38-site campground are planned as well.

2 ORCHARD BEACH STATE PARK GPS: 44.283791, -86.313410

Found along M-110 (Lakeshore Drive) on your way towards M-22, you will come across Orchard Beach State Park. It's home to a great seasonal State Park (very popular with camping enthusiasts) and a beginner level trail system. The first loop of the trail system has markers that showcase the straightline winds that devastated some of the area landscape (with some large trees still fallen). If you venture across the road, you will find not a Natural Wonder, but a manmade one, in the Orchard Beach State Park shelter house. Due to high water and coastal erosion during the 2019-2020 seasons, the DNR had it relocated to the playground area. An engineering marvel, this 400-ton historic limestone pavilion now stands about 1000' from its original location and safely grounded for future generations to enjoy.

3 LAKE BLUFF BIRD SANCTUARY GPS: 44.290736, -86.309736

This 76-acre wildlife sanctuary is home to 178 bird species and is one of the most popular Northern Michigan destinations for birdwatching on this 5-acre arboretum. Here you will find 2 Michigan Champion trees, along with the only Sequoia in Michigan. You can also gain access to the Lake Michigan shoreline. There are also a few hiking trails.

4 GLEN PARK MINERAL SPRINGS GPS: 44.368751, -86.209142

Augustine W. Farr bought this property in transactions during 1880. In 1882, he deeded it to the Onekama Lumber Company, of which he was president; Farr and Charles Secor, treasurer of the Lumber Company, were both active in the development of the Glen, where the first bona fide resort in Manistee County rose and fell during the late 1800s. The springs on the property had “rare combinations of the curative and health-giving properties,” as found in testing. Today the springs are frequently visited by locals and tourists alike.

Foodie Stop in the VILLAGE OF ONEKAMA

As you make your way into Onekama, stop at any one of these awesome foodie stops and enjoy a quick bite, or fine dining experience overlooking Portage Lake.

5 ARTESIAN WELL GPS: 44.376511, -86.227881

An artesian aquifer is a confined aquifer containing groundwater under positive pressure. This type of well seems to defy gravity because the pressure that builds up between layers of rock gets relieved when the water finds a path to the open air. Manistee County has two popular artesian wells which have been enjoyed by locals and visitors for many years. This is the first of two wells and is popular amongst the local residents along Portage Point Drive as well as passing cyclists or travelers that are enjoying a day trip along M-22. These water sources are considered to produce some of the purest water in the county.

6 "OLD FACEFULL" GPS: 44.427615, -86.247132

Old Facefull has quenched the thirst of many visitors for over 80 years. It is located at the end of Thirteen Mile Road at Lake Michigan in Pierport, north of Onekama. This is a great spot to enjoy a quiet walk on the beach with your family (just steps away) and sip the always cool water at Old Facefull before continuing your journey.

Blue Slipper Tavern
(231) 889-7101 | 8058 1st St.
Historic pub established in the mid 1880s. Fun decor and outdoor seating. Open afternoons and evenings. Check their facebook page for latest food offerings.

Lahey's Pub at the Historic Portage Point Inn
(231) 889-7320 | 8513 Portage Pt.
Come enjoy a drink at the newly renovated bar at the Portage Point Resort. Serving Michigan craft beer, wine and your favorite cocktails. Featuring specialty menus with fresh local favorites such as appetizers, pizzas, salads & wraps.

M22 Grill
(231) 889-7133 | 5151 Main St.
Open for Breakfast and Lunch, the M22 grill is a casual diner featuring breakfast and burgers and your favorite baskets right along the shores of Portage Lake.

Onekama EZ Market
(231) 8889-4514 | 5357 Main St.
Freshly crafted food, ready to go eat at the park, on the boat or at the beach. Daily specials, pizza bagels, full pizzas and pizza by the slice. Full service meat counter & friendly butcher.

Papa J's Ice Cream & Eatery
(231) 889-4410 | 4825 Main St.
More than just ice cream in the park. It's mini-golf and ice cream, kayak rentals and ice cream, or a burger and ice cream. Dine in or take out, this is a classic coastal eatery at the beach.

The Glenwood
(231) 889-3734 | 4604 Main St.
"Distinctive Dining Prepared to Your Liking". Serving 7 nights a week beginning at 4 pm. Reservations are recommended for dine in. The Glenwood is a destination dining experience.

Yellow Dog Cafe
(231) 508-5008 | 4805 Main St.
Cool, eclectic and fun. The Yellow Dog Cafe features a fresh menu of sandwiches, wraps and baked goods sweets.



@arcadia_bluffs

Arcadia Bluffs Golf & Dining 🍷🏌️

As one of the premier golf destinations in the United States, Arcadia Bluffs offers two championship golf courses, exceptional lodging, and exquisite dining. The South Course, located on M-22 and 13 Mile in Pierport is home to a casual, yet elegant dining experience. The Bluffs Course (shown here) overlooks Lake Michigan, and you can go to the Lakeview Bar, grab a drink and meander out to an adirondack chair overlooking the 18th green and Lake Michigan. If you stop in at dusk on Thursday-Sunday, late June through summer you will probably catch the Arcadia Piper, playing the bagpipes just off the 18th green.

Drink, Foodie or Golf Stop
Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club
 (800) 494-8666 | 14710 Northwood Hwy.

You don't need to be a golfer to enjoy this incredible view. Grab a drink from the Lakeview Bar at the Bluffs Lodge and walk out to a chair and enjoy the view.

7 WALK THE ARCADIA MARSH 🌿📷

GPS: 44.256221, -86.288922

The awe-inspiring beauty of a Great Lakes Coastal Marsh is yours to enjoy as you walk, hike, canoe or kayak through the 155-acre Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve. Located just south of the Village of Arcadia on the east side of M-22, it is one of only 15 or so remaining Great Lakes Coastal Marshes along the shoreline of Lake Michigan's Lower Peninsula and is owned, protected and managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

It's a great birding site, hosting over 150 bird species and is a year-round habitat for many fish and aquatic organisms. Walk the 1.5 mile boardwalk (out and back) from the M-22 trailhead. Be sure to take your camera and zoom lens as you are sure to want to capture a photo or two of the incredible wildlife.



Part of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy - learn more at GTRLC.org



Video 📺

Watch stunning aerial video of the Marsh Trail

Note: The central section of the walkway is closed from April 15 - July 15 as this is a critical bird nesting habitat. Access can still be had from M-22 to the first viewing platform and also from the opposite end along St. Pierre Rd. for a short distance.

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8 ARCADIA OVERLOOK 📷

GPS: 44.427615, -86.247132

As you are driving north through Manistee County on the beautiful scenic highway M-22, you will find yourself "on top of the county" when you reach the Arcadia Overlook (known as "Inspiration Point"). When you travel through the quaint town of Arcadia, you will find yourself at zero elevation right next to the Lake Michigan shores. Within minutes you will feel your ears pop as you climb up the 370' climb to the parking area at the overlook! The view doesn't stop here-put on your walking shoes and travel up the 140 steps (80 vertical feet) to the top lookout and gaze out on one of the most picturesque views that truly define Manistee County as "Pure Michigan".

@manisteepuremichigan

Overlook at the end of the accessible Baldy Trail



9 OLD BALDY TRAILS 📷

GPS: 44.535531, -86.225751

Enjoy this beautiful trail system as it looks out onto Lake Michigan. The hike begins in the dense hardwoods and ends out on the beautiful dune bluffs of Lake Michigan. This is a great place for an afternoon picnic or a run with the family pet! This is also a great spot to enjoy trail riding. Hike in the morning and then grab your bike and head out on the trail system across the street to the St. Pierre Trailhead. The Old Baldy trail is universally accessible and has a stunning overlook out to Lake Michigan.

10 GRAVITY HILL 📷

GPS: 44.528517, -86.16080

It's a mystery... "If the car is in neutral, why are we rolling up hill?" Just off the beaten path of M-22 or US-31, a short jaunt down Joyfield Road, turn on Putney Road by the Blaine Christian Church. Stop at the bottom of the hill at the curve sign. Put your vehicle in neutral and experience the gravitational pull back up the hill to Joyfield Road.

Are you a Skeptic or a Believer? Is it science or an illusion? It's a Mystery.

This is only 1 of 2 documented "gravity hills" in all of Michigan. It is indeed a "Natural Wonder" and also that token "Mystery Spot" every family vacation should experience at least once on their trip to Manistee County!



Continue North along the Lake Michigan Coastal Tour

ARCADIA FOOD STOPS

Arcadia Ice House
 (231) 889-4555 | 17073 Northwood Hwy.
Serving old-fashioned and delicious ice cream in the heart of Arcadia.

Arcadia Bluffs Dining
 (800) 494-8666 | 14710 Northwood Hwy.
Enjoy high-end, formal dining at the Lodge, or grab a drink at the Lakeview bar and head to the adirondack chairs on the course.