



2-DAY SELF-GUIDED SKIING TOUR

For the outdoor enthusiast, Manistee County has plenty to offer in the way of cross country and downhill skiing. There are five trails in Manistee County that are perfect places to cross country ski. For those who prefer Alpine/Downhill skiing both Caberfae Peaks and Crystal Mountain offer perfect downhill. In addition, there are plenty of places to go snowshoeing. Go explore!

DAY 1 - CROSS COUNTRY



BIG-M SKI AREA: (TOP CHOICE)

One of the best places to cross-country ski and snowshoe is Big-M. Located near Wellston off M-55 in the middle of a hardwood pine forest, Big-M features 46 miles of trails over a variety of terrain, providing opportunities for people of all skill levels. Its setting among Udell Hills offers skiers and snowshoers a challenge while rewarding them with breathtaking views of the Manistee National Forest. Big-M is maintained by the Manistee Cross Country Ski Council, a nonprofit volunteer organization that operates in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The trails and lodge at Big-M are operated through donations from ski council members and users.

MANISTEE NON-MOTORIZED PARK: (TOP GROOMED "CLOSE TO MANISTEE" OPTION)

The City of Manistee Non-Motorized Transportation Committee and the Shoreline Cycling Club recently collaborated to create a new trail system on city-owned property off M-55 in Manistee Township. The group will be maintaining the 3.2 miles of trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing this year, and hopes to expand the system in coming years. The dedication of local volunteers shows that the area is filled with people who look forward to that first blanket of fluffy white snow each year, and welcome others to partake in the joys winter in Manistee has to offer.

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL: (BEST FOR SECLUSION)

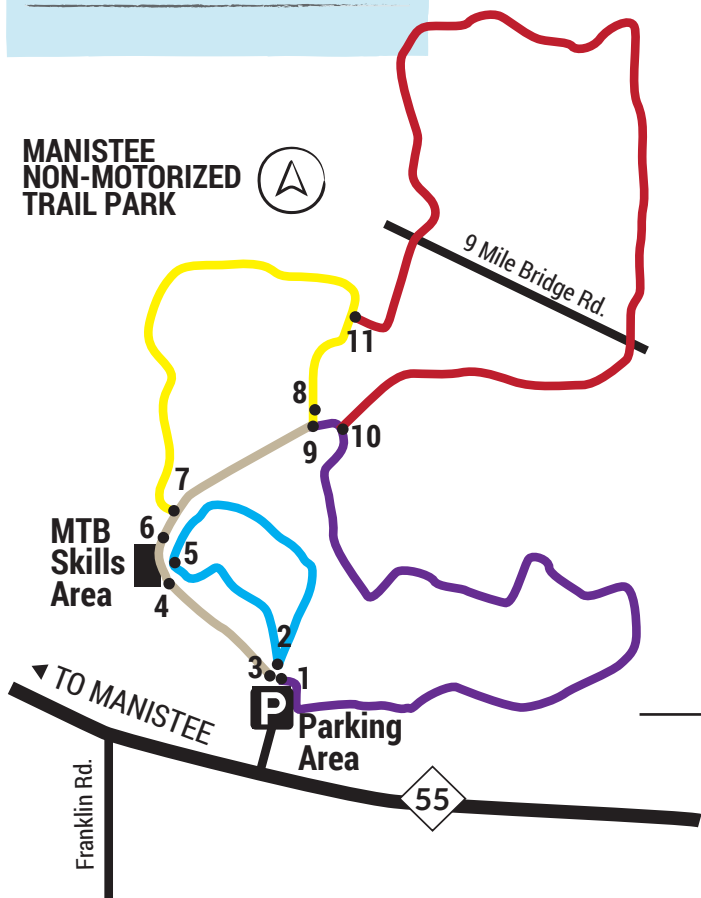
The famous North Country trail runs right through the heart of Manistee County, and therefore XC skiing opportunities are abundant! Take advantage of this and enjoy! Keep in mind, these trails are not groomed and the difficulty and terrain can vary quickly. We recommend skiing in groups for safety reasons. Contact the Visitors Center for details.

ORCHARD BEACH STATE PARK: (BEST BEGINNER TRAILS)

A great spot for a quick morning ski. This 2.5 miles of trail systems is great for the beginner. There are a great set of trails, however, they are not machine groomed, but you are certain to find some tracks of other skiers if it hasn't snowed in a while. This is also a great spot to take your pet and let them exercise while you get a workout!

MAGOON CREEK NATURAL AREA: (BEST WITH PETS)

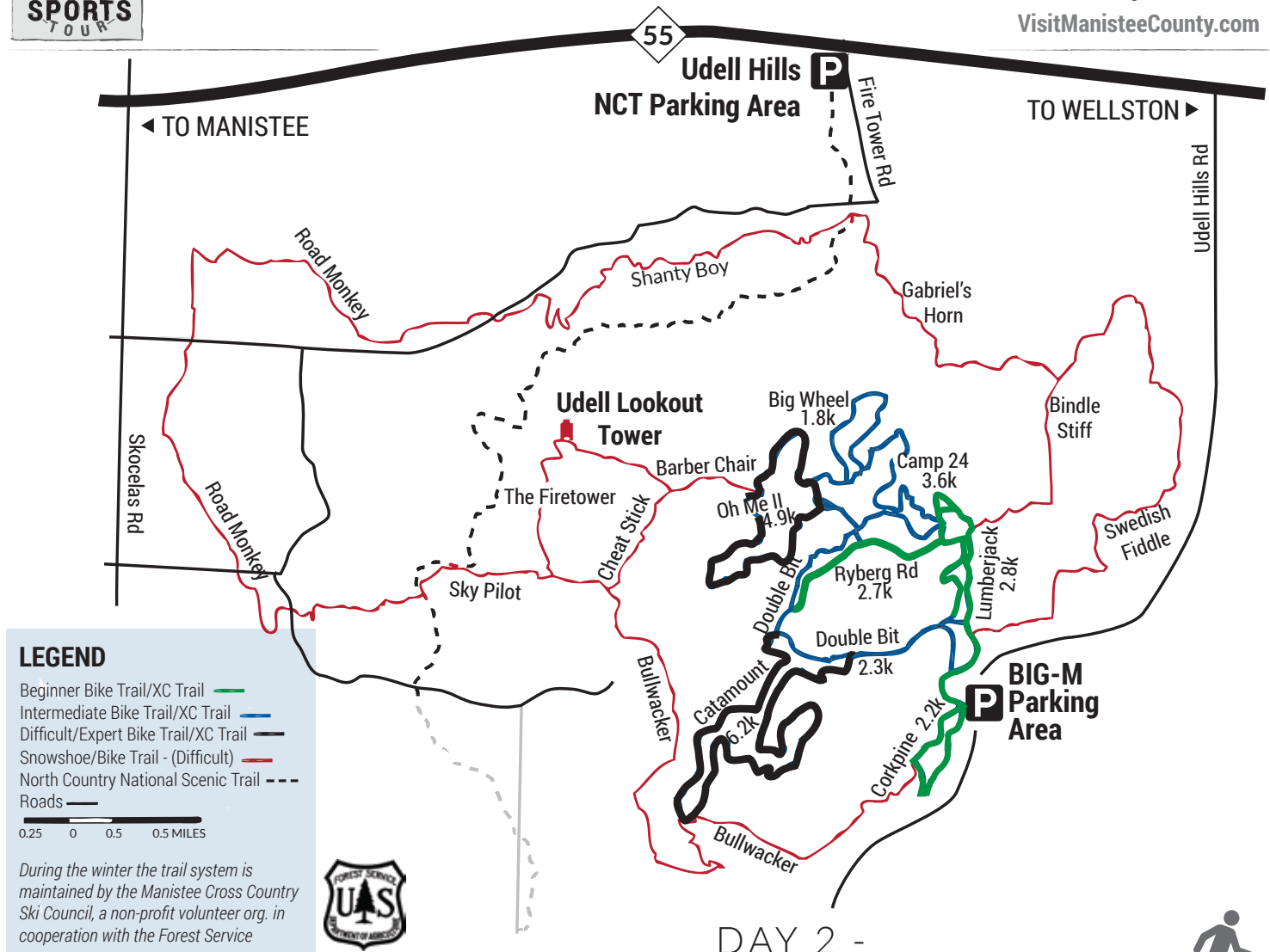
Another great spot for you and your pet. No groomed trails but the 2+ miles of trails create a great loop for an early morning or later evening ski.



LEGEND

Snowshoe Trail:
Blue Trail - 1 mi. Dog Friendly

Hiking/Ski Trails:
White/Brown Trail: 0.4 mi (.6k)
Yellow Trail: 0.8 mi (1.3k)
Purple Trail: 1.2 mi (1.9k)
Red Trail: 1.4 mi (2.3k)



DAY 2 - DOWNHILL SKIING

CABERFAE PEAKS (BEST FOR VERTICAL DROP)



Caberfae Peaks Ski Resort boasts Michigan's highest lift-served peaks and some of the state's biggest vertical drops. With 34 runs, skiers and riders will enjoy the best advanced, intermediate, and novice ski runs in the state.

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN (BEST FOR TERRAIN VARIETY)

Crystal Mountain features 58 downhill slopes and 30km of cross-country skiing for the winter lover. The resort also features the award winning Crystal Spa. This is the perfect place to relax after a long day on the slopes.

LODGING IN THE AREA

HOTEL, MOTEL, CABINS & VACATION RENTALS

Stay in Manistee County for a fraction of what you would spend at the ski resorts. Find your perfect accommodations now at:

VisitManisteeCounty.com/lodging.



DAY 2 - SNOWSHOE OPTION



If downhill skiing isn't your thing, there are some great alternative options to skiing. Here are a few options that you will want to check out.

MANISTEE RIVER TRAIL: (TOP CHOICE)

Quite possibly one of the most beautiful spots to snowshoe in Manistee County! This 14-mile trail hooks up with the North Country Trail and is a great spot for the winter camping enthusiast as well! This trail overlooks the Manistee River and the scenery is breathtaking! If you can only get out snowshoeing once this year, be sure to make it count and pick the Manistee River Trail!

ARCADIA DUNES: (BEST LAKE MICHIGAN OVERLOOK)

The Old Baldy Trail is simply spectacular during the winter months. The canopy of trees leading out to the dunes make for a calm winter feeling that will put you right at peace. As the trees thin, and you make your way out to the scenic overlook, you won't be disappointed gazing out at the ice formations hundreds of feet below.



2-DAY SELF-GUIDED SNOWMOBILING TOUR

Grab your friends and venture to Manistee County. We are centrally located to a 250+ mile trail network throughout Manistee, Benzie, Wexford and Lake Counties. Here you will be able to stay in lodging properties along the trails or right in the heart of the Manistee Area. Explore the beautifully groomed trail system that brings people back year after year.



DAY 1 - NORTH

The northern portion of Manistee County has a lot to offer snowmobile enthusiasts. For sledheads, these trails as well as dining and lodging establishments are a must visit. We have outlined some of the main hot spots along the trails as you ride north.

WHERE TO DROP IN? There are four major northern staging areas that can serve as your starting location for your day ride north. Trailer to any of these locations. If you are eager to get into Benzie County, we recommend starting a bit higher up the trail in Copemish or Bear Lake. Here is a list of potential staging areas for a Northern focused ride:

- 1 Kaleva** is home to the Benzie-Manistee Snowbirds snow club and their clubhouse serves as a primary staging area connecting you to some of the area's best terrain. (GPS: Lat: 44.374521 | Lon: -86.018143)
- 2 Bear Lake** is home to two primary staging areas. One of the primary trailheads in the county is located at 13 mile road and US-31. Here
- 3** you will find a restaurant, gas station and convenience store. (GPS: Lat: 44.430684 | Lon: -86.127791) You will also find a smaller staging area just north at Lumley Road and US-31. (GPS: Lat: 44.474847 | Lon: -86.122148)
- 4 Copemish & Thompsonville** have a staging area along the trail at Vondra Rd. & M-115 (GPS: Lat: 44.499487 | Lon: -85.958984)
- 5** Just south of Brethren, you will find access to the **Manistee River at High Bridge**. This is a great spot to drop into the trail system and enjoy beautiful scenery along the Manistee River. (GPS: Lat: 44.268028 | Lon: -86.016233)

RIDE DETAILS: If you did start at the southern most location at #5, the trip north from there is spectacular along the ridge line and through the Udell Hills area along the northern side of the Big Manistee River Basin. This is a great ride all the way into Kaleva (#1).

Once in Kaleva You will continue to turn north on trail 3. As you reach the mid-point between Copemish and Kaleva, you can turn west towards Bear Lake. Here you will find a variety of dining options in the area as well as a fan favorite for snowmobilers, the Saddle-up Gas Station and Grocery Store.

From here continue north through Copemish, and you will run into the Benzie County Trail System, which is a complete loop. This is why it

makes for a great out and back day trip from the heart of Manistee County. Sledheads from across the midwest will flock to this ride because of its convenience and "spend more time on the trails" idea. If you wish, you can continue north off the Benzie County loop, by taking Trail 3 north until reaching its end point in Maple City in Leelanau County. The Trail heading north, however, does not have any additional spurs and would just be an out/back ride.



DINING IN THE AREA

Grill 44

12951 Pleasanton Hwy. (US 31)
Bear Lake, MI 49614
231-864-4000 | www.grille44.com

Traks Bar and Grill

5073 Highbridge Rd
Brethren, MI 49619
231-477-5944 | traksbar.com

Annie's Kozy Kitchen

16938 Caberfae Hwy., (M 55)
Wellston, MI 49689
231-848-4632

LODGING IN THE AREA

1 Alpine Motor Lodge

8127 Chippewa Hwy.,
Bear Lake, MI 49614
877-779-3596 -or- 231-889-4281
www.alpinemotorlodge.com

2 Crystal Adventures Vac. Rentals

17227 Vondra Road,
Thompsonville, MI 49683
231-651-9648 **ON TRAIL**
www.crystalbooking.us

3 Northwoods Cabins

17448 Caberfae Hwy.
Wellston, MI 49689
231-848-4573 **ON TRAIL**
www.northwoodscabins.com

4 Manistee Outpost Motel

12150 Caberfae Hwy (M 55)
Manistee, MI 49660
231-723-7500 **ON TRAIL**
www.manisteeoutpostmotel.com

See Lodging on the
Next Page with
Snowmobile Trails



DAY 2 - EAST

Now that you have the northern segment of the trail mastered, the southern and eastern segments are just as spectacular as the northern segment. The southern system, has various trailheads that you can drop in at, and will connect you east with the Wexford County Network.

WHERE TO DROP IN? There are four major staging areas. Three are in the greater Wellston area, and one close to the City of Manistee at the Stronach Road access. From here, you can ride the southeastern Manistee County trails and hook up with the Wellston trail system further east, or the Lake County system to the south.

- 5** Just south of Brethren, you will find access to the **Manistee River at High Bridge**. This is a great spot to drop into the trail system and enjoy beautiful scenery along the Manistee River. (GPS: Lat: 44.268028 | Lon: -86.016233)

- 6** Within 5 miles of Manistee you will find the **Steinberg & Stronach Road Staging Area**. A large parking area and connection to the west trail can be found here. (GPA: Lat: 44.217261 | Lon: -86.238556)

- 7** **Wellston** is also home to two separate small snowmobiling staging areas. One is at the intersection of Low Bridge Road and M-55 (near Cooley Bridge) (GPS: Lat: 44.222719 | Lon: -85.898538) (7) The other is at Seaman Road and M-55. (GPS: Lat: 44.225027 | Lon: -85.958147)

RIDE DETAILS: Starting in Southern Manistee County, there is much great trail riding to be had. Starting at trail marker #6, you will have the shortest trail if you are staying in Manistee, as it is only about 10 minutes from the City. From there, you can head east into the heart of the trail system meticulously maintained by the Wellston Snowmobile Club. From there, you can explore the Big Manistee River basin to the north, or if you are looking to branch out east, you can continue to the elaborate network in Wexford County. Here the terrain is varied and well groomed. There are various dining locations such as Annie's Kozy Kitchen and Coyote Crossing Resort (in Wexford County) that are great for catching up with friends and other snowmobilers.

NORTHERN REGION CURRENT TRAIL CONDITIONS

For info, maps and trail conditions visit our partners at:
www.benziemanisteesnowbirds.com

SNOWSPORTS RENTALS

Crystal Adventures & Vac. Rentals

Snowmobile & ATV Rentals

17227 Vondra Road,
Thompsonville, MI 49683

231-651-9648

www.crystalbooking.us

Note: Crystal Adventures also features Vacation Rentals in the area.

SNOWMOBILING TRAIL MAP

SOUTHERN REGION CURRENT TRAIL CONDITIONS

For info, maps and trail conditions visit our partners at:
www.wellstonwintertrails.com

