



## PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:** Kim Skeltis, APR; 616.419.8385; [kim@blueblazepr.com](mailto:kim@blueblazepr.com)

### **MANISTEE COUNTY DRAWS VISITORS THIS FALL WITH THEMED EVENTS, SCENIC COLOR TOURS AND AUTUMN FESTIVALS PLUS SEASON DISCOUNTS**

*Highlights include Hops and Props; Boos, Brews & Brats; Ghost Ship and Little Manistee Weir Egg Harvest plus Performing Arts; Flight Deals from Chicago in September*

MANISTEE, Mich. – *Sept. 10, 2018* – While thousands of visitors annually vacation in Manistee County during the summer, those who venture to this Lake Michigan resort region in the fall will find the same beautiful sights but with less people to share them with, coupled with stunning fall colors, themed events and seasonal attractions. Visitors also will enjoy value pricing at area lodging, golf courses and on a direct flight from Chicago.

"Autumn is a special time to visit northern Michigan, and Manistee County offers a colorful palette of options," said Kathryn Kenny, executive director of the Manistee County Visitors Bureau. "Along with the dazzling fall foliage and seasonal events, we have mapped out tours to help you find your way to our bountiful farmers markets, historic landmarks, natural wonders and other attractions along the way."

#### **Fall Events and Festivals**

Manistee County offers a number of signature fall events that cater to adults and families alike:

- [\*\*\*Hops and Props on the River\*\*\*](#), Manistee, Sept. 15. This fall favorite features classic wooden boats and craft beer, cider and wine. Visitors can taste their way through more than 100 beers from 35 Michigan breweries, view classic Century boats (originally manufactured in Manistee), and listen to live music.
- [\*\*\*Onekama Fall Festival\*\*\*](#), Onekama, Oct. 13. This annual tradition features live entertainment, arts and crafts, scarecrow and pumpkin decorating contests, pet parade, hay rides, food wagon and other family-friendly activities.
- [\*\*\*Boos, Brews & Brats\*\*\*](#), Manistee, Oct. 27. This festival in downtown Manistee features craft beer and food, plus costume contests, face painting, live music and more.

#### **Unique Fall Attractions**

Manistee County also is home to distinctive attractions in the fall. Highlights include:

- [\*\*\*Manistee Ghost Ship\*\*\*](#), October weekends. The historic 1931 S.S. City of Milwaukee car ferry transforms into the Manistee Ghost Ship, where visitors explore five decks of thrills, scares and ghostly beings. Admission fee.
- [\*\*\*Scenic Airplane Tours\*\*\*](#), October weekends. Enjoy a bird's-eye view of Michigan's fall colors on a scenic flight over Lake Michigan. Orchard Beach Aviation conducts scenic flights along the shoreline for \$30 per person (two person minimum) departing from Manistee County Blacker Airport.
- [\*\*\*Self-Guided Driving Tours\*\*\*](#). Fourteen themed, self-guided tours of hundreds of sites can be downloaded at [visitmanisteecounty.com/tours](http://visitmanisteecounty.com/tours) – many of which make a perfect fall route, including the [\*\*\*Inland Fall Color\*\*\*](#), [\*\*\*Coastal Fall Color\*\*\*](#), [\*\*\*U-Pick Orchards and Farmers Markets\*\*\*](#), [\*\*\*M-22 Scenic Drive\*\*\*](#), [\*\*\*Bridges and Dams\*\*\*](#), [\*\*\*Natural Wonders\*\*\*](#), and [\*\*\*Brew and Spirits\*\*\*](#) Tours.
- [\*\*\*Little Manistee River Weir - Fall Egg Harvest\*\*\*](#), Manistee, usually first two weeks of October (*call hotline at 231-775-9727, ext. 6072 to check on egg take status*). This unique phenomenon occurs once a year when the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division harvests chinook salmon eggs from the fishing weir. The weir is used to block fish on the Little Manistee River, and chinook salmon eggs are taken in the fall and sent to state fish hatcheries to be reared and

stocked all over Michigan as well as other states. During the fall egg take, visitors can take self-guided tours of the operation, plus access an ADA-accessible platform to view salmon below the weir.

### Fall Performances at Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts

Fall kicks off a new season at the [Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts](#) in Manistee. Top performances include:

- **[“A Man and his Prostate” with Ed Asner](#)**, Sept. 21. Ed Asner takes the stage during prostate cancer awareness week with this hilarious comedy written by Emmy award-winning Ed Weinberger based on a true-life experience. A near tragedy is masterfully transformed into a one-man comedy in his visit to the hospital for surgery.
- **[Shoreline Music Society Chamber Music Concert](#)**, Oct. 12. The Ramsdell formed a partnership with [Shoreline Music Society](#), a new nonprofit launching a chamber music series in Manistee. Attendees experience classical music in a new way as the society transforms a concert experience into a conversation, including opportunities to talk with performers plus Artistic Director Robert Nordling. This concert features Franz Schubert’s Symphony No. 5 and Richard Wagner’s Siegfried Idyll. Tickets include complimentary hors d’oeuvres in a pre-event reception with the performers. Future concerts are listed at [shorelinemusicsociety.com](#).
- **[“As you Like It,”](#)** Oct. 18-20. Michigan’s only year-round touring professional Shakespeare company, Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company comes to the Ramsdell for the first time to perform this Shakespeare comedy. Pigeon Creek makes Shakespeare engaging for modern audiences with a lively, interactive performance style.
- **[Billy Strings](#)**, Manistee, Nov. 21. Billy Strings is one of the most beloved young bluegrass guitarists today within the bluegrass community, and he performs as part of West Shore Community College Performing Arts Series.

### Fall Lodging Deals

Manistee County offers a variety of lodging options, including hotels, motels, cabins and cottages, historic bed-and-breakfasts, campgrounds and private vacation rentals. Check [VisitManisteeCounty.com](#) for a complete list of lodging options, and [visitmanisteecounty.com/deals](#) for fall discounts. Highlights include:

- **[Bear Lake Bed & Breakfast, Bear Lake - Fall rates and Girlfriend Getaway deal](#)** – Reduced fall rates start the week of Sept. 10. Also, girlfriends who stay one night get half off the second night.
- **[Dempsey Manor B & B, Manistee - Fall discounts \(Oct. 1 – 31\)](#)** – Eligible parties receive 10 percent off their rooms, including returning guests, veterans, seniors over the age of 60, corporate travelers, parties booking 60 days in advance, and parties booking three rooms. All discounts require a two-night stay.
- **[Inn at the Alpine, Bear Lake - Stay and Lake Cruise Package](#)** – Enjoy a one-night stay with an evening/sunset cruise on Bear Lake to take in the fall colors for \$295 (weekdays) and \$325 (weekends). Or stay two nights and earn a third night free. Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 Breakfast included. Mention you heard the deal from Visit Manistee County.
- **[Insta Launch Campground & Marina, Manistee - Stay two or more nights and receive third night free](#)** – Reserve a campsite or rental trailer in advance for two or more nights and receive the third night free. Advance reservation is required, and visitors must mention the discount when making a reservation. Offer runs Oct. 15 - Nov. 30.

### Fall Golf Specials

Manistee County is home to nine golf courses, 144 holes and two golf resorts, including [Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club](#), a world-class links golf course boasting 36 holes of golf open to the public through mid-November. While tee-time is at peak pricing in the summer, fall features golf discounts, including:

- **[Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club](#)** - Twilight golf rate starting at 3 p.m., golf fall special deal Oct. 8 - 9 (limited holes available) and fall rates Oct. 10 - Nov. 12.
- **[Manistee Golf and Country Club](#)** – Established in 1901, this is one of Michigan’s oldest courses, featuring breathtaking views of Lake Michigan. Late season golf pricing runs Sept. 17 - Oct. 15.

- [Manistee National Golf & Resort](#) with two par-71 courses – Shoulder season discounts run Sept. 3 - 6, 10 - 30 and Oct. 5 - 7 for weekday, weekend and twilight. Late season offers the best discounts Oct. 1 - 4 and 8 to close for weekdays and weekends.

### **September Jet Service Deal from Chicago Midway**

[Manistee County Blacker Airport \(MBL\)](#) recently announced a new, year-round jet service to and from [Chicago Midway Airport \(MDW\)](#) via [North Country Sky](#) on a 30-seat Dornier 328 jet, with 45-minute direct flights between destinations. While flights usually range from \$65 to \$150 each way, a special promotion through Sept. 20 locks in flights at \$64.50 each way (use promo code ILOVEMBL). The promotion is valid on all flights flown through Sept. 30, 2018. Travelers on North Country Sky can take one free checked bag up to 30 pounds, plus one free carry-on and one personal item. Parking is free at the Manistee terminal. Flights can be purchased at [FLYManistee.com](#), [northcountysky.com](#) or online travel websites, as well as at 877.359.7595. Check [FLYManistee.com](#) for the [flight schedule](#).

### **About the Manistee County Visitors Bureau**

*Incorporated in 1997, the Manistee County Visitors Bureau is the official travel and tourism organization to promote Manistee County as a travel destination and build the local tourism economy through overnight visits. The visitors bureau is a partner in the Pure Michigan campaign and member of the West Michigan Tourist Association, Circle Michigan, Michigan Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus, Michigan Lodging & Tourism Association and the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce. More information is available at [VisitManisteeCounty.com](#).*

####