# Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...along Heritage Route 23!

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# 1. Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is a great way to spend a day along the Sunrise Coast! Find one of the many public access sites on the map, grab your equipment. and get out on that ice!

Be sure to check the ice conditions first. For DNR and USFS access sites, check rules and regulations for each.



Photo: Michigan Sea Gran

NOTE: The map (reverse side) shows public access sites on Lake Huron and inland lakes and rivers (shown as blue dots 🔵 ). This does not guarantee that parking is available or that each access is plowed during the winter.

## 2. Alabaster Pathway & Arboretum

This 13-mile pathway is plowed year-round and winds its way from Dyer Road to the southern edge of Tawas City through wooded areas and along the Lake Huron shoreline. The trail curves in and out of the trees and has a wooden guard rail that keeps users safe from road traffic. The pathway also serves as an arboretum with tree types identified with signage. The Alabaster Pathway connects to the Tawas Bay Pedestrian Pathway that runs through Tawas City and East Tawas and out to Tawas Point State Park. The Alabaster Pathway is part of the Iron Belle Trail (from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula).

### 3. Snowkiting or Ice Sailing

Tawas Bay is not just for summer anymore! Use the power of the winter wind to glide on snow or ice - it's similar to skiing or snowboarding. You'll see Tawas Bay in a whole new way! tawas.com or tawasbay.com



4. Tawas Point State Park

Tawas Point juts out into Lake Huron in a crescent of land that is a nature lover's paradise! Tawas Point State Park offers snowshoeing, ice skating, winter campsites and winter cabin rental. Access to Lake Huron provides ice fishing opportunities. The Tawas Point Lighthouse, the sole representative of a true Victorian-era style station on the Great Lakes, makes for spectacular scenic views and photos! Call 800-447-2757 with questions. michigan.gov/tawaspoint

## 5. Corsair Trail System

Corsair has 28 miles of one-way groomed trails that vary from gently rolling, easy terrain to somewhat hilly, difficult terrain. The trails winds through red pine forest and along Silver Creek in the Huron National Forest. There are several loops that allow for quick half hour trips or all day adventures. The trails are marked with blue diamond-shaped confidence markers. The trails are groomed by the Corsair Trail Council and the warming shelter is open most weekends making this a fun winter getaway!

Corsair, Silver Valley and Wrights Lake Trailheads are plowed in winter. Silver Valley and Wrights Lake Trailheads are maintained from Dec. 1, 2015 to Mar. 31, 2016. Corsair Trailhead is maintained year-round. Entry fee applies at Corsair Trailhead, but no fee is required at the Wrights Lake and Silver Lake Trailheads. Water and toilet facilities are available. Warming shelter available.



Reid Lake is a 3,000-acre back-country recreation experience that is closed to motor vehicles. 12 miles of gently rolling trails through the Huron National Forest will lead you around Reid Lake, once part of a northern Michigan farm. The ungroomed ski trails are easily negotiated by a beginning skier with enough rolling terrain to please even the more advanced skier. Plowed parking lot and trailhead are located on M-72. National Forest Service vehicle pass is required. fs.usda.gov/hmnf

# 9. Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area

Hoist Lakes encompasses over 10,000 acres of pine, aspen and hardwood forests. There are over 20 miles of unaroomed ski trails winding through small pothole lakes and areas of beaver flooding as well as over and around hills and ridges. Difficulty ranges from moderate to more difficult/ most difficult due to length of trails. Hoist Lakes East trailhead (accessed from M-65) is maintained year-round and is plowed in winter. National fs.usda.gov/hmnf Forest Service vehicle pass is required.

lozy Cabins!

## 10. Harrisville State Park

Nestled in a stand of pine and cedar trees along the sandy shores of Lake Huron, the park features over one mile of ungroomed cross-country ski trails. The 107-acre park was established in 1921 and is one of Michigan's oldest state parks. Cabins can be rented any time of year! Call 989-724-5126.

michigan.gov/harrisville

## 11. Norway Ridge

This 7-mile groomed cross-country ski trail follows ridges through lowland forest habitat covered with large red pines. Three marked loops are for novice and intermediate skiers. michigan.gov/dnr

# 12. Alpena Bi-Path

The Bi-Path is an urban jewel in the City of Alpena. See cozy winter cityscapes and take in breathtaking views of Lake Huron. The Bi-Path is flat, connects to parks throughout the city and is cleared for walking year round. Over 18 miles long, the Bi-Path follows along the top of the breakwall at the marina, along the shore of the Thunder Bay River, and winds through downtown Alpena spanning the river connecting the Maritime Heritage Trail to Rotary Island among other landmarks. It continues south to Starlite Beach and Mich-e-ke-wis Park through the South Bay Corridor business district. A portion of the Bi-Path is open to snowmobiles (connects to the North Eastern State Trail - see map). Alpena is also centrally located to three Dark Sky Preserves (Negwegon State Park, Thompson's Harbor State Park, and Rockport State Recreation Area). alpena.mi.us

# 13. North Eastern State Trail

This 71-mile trail offers an extended journey for snowmobilers down the old Detroit & Mackinaw Railway line - developed in the late 1800s to ship Michigan's vast supplies of timber. The trail runs from Alpena to Cheboygan and passes near state parks and recreation sites and through remote areas and incredible scenery. The trailhead in Cheboygan has restrooms, parking and a shelter and also serves the North Central State Trail. At the southern end the trail in Alpena, the route connects to the Alpena Bi-Path via Woodward Avenue. The trailhead on Woodward Ave has year-round restrooms and a lighted parking lot available for vehicles and trailers. The trailscouncil.org trail is also open to non-motorized use.

## 14. Chippewa Hills

Chippewa Hills Pathway follows a 9-mile hilly route through cedar swamp and dense trees. Three loops are marked and groomed for novice, intermediate and advanced cross-country skiers. mich 15. Thunder Bay Resort

# 21. P.H. Hoeft State Park 拱

P.H. Hoeft State Park is a heavily-wooded 300-acre park with a mile of Lake Huron shoreline. Hoeft has a total of 5 miles of ski trails running through gently rolling, mixed hardwood and conifer forest as well as along the Lake Huron shoreline. Groomed trails are track set. Snowshoes are allowed off-trail. A groomed snowmobile trail runs through the park. A lodge and mini-cabins are available for winter rental. Call 989-734-2543 for reservations. michigan.gov/hoeft

### 22. Black Mountain State Recreation Area

The Black Mountain Recreation Area offers a vast network of marked trails for skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling. With over 30 miles available for cross-country skiing and 80 miles for snowmobiling, the area is ideal for any winter adventurer! Special pathways have been constructed for the traditional diagonal skier and the skate-skier. Pathways range from "Easy" to "Most Difficult". Skiers may find themselves gliding under majestic pines, taking in views of Black Lake and, under the right conditions, even getting a glimpse of Lake Huron. Trail users travel through a number of forest types and are able to see what a managed forest looks like in its various stages of regrowth. 4 separate parking lots provide skiers access to the pathway loops which best suit their abilities or interests. michiaan.gov/dnr

# 23. Cheboygan State Park

Cheboygan State Park has a system of well-marked ski trails that provide access to scenic Lake Huron winter vistas. The trail system consists of nearly 7 miles of trails with 6 miles of those trails being groomed in the winter and used by cross-country ski enthusiasts. To warm up next to a crackling fire after a refreshing day of skiing, cabins are available within the park for winter rental! Call 231-627-2811 for reservations. michigan.gov/cheboygan

### 24. The Headlands International Dark Sky Park

The Headlands International Dark Sky Park contains approximately 550 acres of pristine woodlands and more than 2 miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline. Visitors to the Headlands may experience sightings of the many wild animals native to the area including bald eagles, osprey, white tail deer, wild turkeys, coyotes and occasionally a black bear. Marked nature trails guide cross-country skiers to experience the park throughout the changing seasons.

The Headlands International Dark Sky Park possesses exceptional natural darkness, starry skies, and natural nocturnal habitat. Dark Sky programs are available.

midarkskypark.org

## 25. Snowmobile Trails

Northeast Michigan, as a whole, boasts over 1,200 miles of snowmobile trails with 515 miles of those trails located in the coastal counties. For snowmobile trail maps, trail reports and other up-to-date information on snowmobiling in Northeast Michigan, visit the Michigan Snowmobile Association Website. www.msasnow.org

### Check out these Winter Events!

Please visit heritage 23. org for a full listing of wintertime events along the US 23 Heritage Route!

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Cover Photo: Elk-Viewing Sleigh Ride at Thunder Bay Resort

#### by the Federal Highway Administration. Map guide design by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. Funded, in part,

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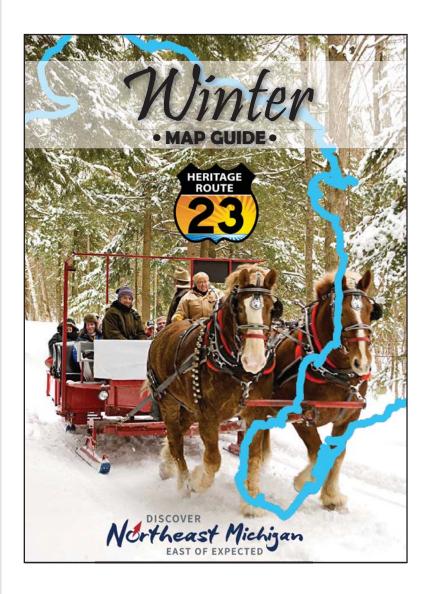


Thunder Bay Classic Dog Sled Race at the Alpena Sportsmen's Club on M-32 west of Alpena. Bay Resort (#15), Rockport 5tate Recreation Area (#16), Besser Natural Area (#17), and at the Recreation Area (#22), P.H. Hoeft State Park (#21), Cheboygan State Park (#23), Thunder wintertime along the US 23 Heritage Route! The video was filmed at Black Mountain State Use the QR code to visit our You Tube Channel to watch our video "Silence" showing ...aonaliC

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National Forest. So, plan your trip today and, remember, there's more to see on 23! National Scenic Byway....which winds along the mighty AuSable River through the Huron inst on the coast....connecting to the US 23 Heritage Route in Oscoda is the River Road attractions, golf, dining, and many other hidden treasures. And the adventures aren't wetlands, lighthouses, parks, trails, museums, shipwrecks, small towns, art, culture, Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The northern Lake Huron shoreline boasts water, forests, most extensive and significant recreational, ecological, historical and cultural sites in City, the Us 23 Heritage Route, an official Pure Michigan Byway, offers some of the Beginning in Standish and winding 200 miles up the Lake Huron coastline to Mackinaw

## Study abritage Route







A starry winter sky!

Photo: Emmet County

#### Use Monument Road to access Trailheads:

From Corsair Trailhead - This portion of the trail has a spur to a 600foot interpretive and fishing trail along Silver Creek.

From Silver Valley Trailhead - This portion of trail offers skiing that is gentler and less hilly. There are two Silver Creek bridge crossings.

From Wrights Lake Trailhead - This portion of the trail provides a little more challenge with longer loops and steeper hills.

NO SNOWSHOEING OR FAT TIRE BIKING fs.usda.gov/hmnf



Photo: Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce

#### T. 6. Eagle Run Trail System

Located in a quiet setting along the south shore of the Lower Au Sable River, Eagle Run provides a 7-mile loop trail system for crosscountry skiing, snowshoeing and fat tire biking! The trail is groomed by the Corsair Trails Council and the trailhead is plowed. Eagle Run is accessed off River Road. fs.usda.gov/hmnf

## 7. Highbanks River Trail

A short, 7-mile trek along the bluffs of the Au Sable River will provides some of the best and most dramatic views of the Au Sable. Snowshoers and skiers will be able to look over the river valley with clear views for miles!

The trail has access areas and parking at Iargo Springs and Lumberman's Monument (accessed off River Road). The grounds of these sites are open in the winter, but the sites are not maintained and no toilet facilities are available.

The trail is not groomed but is maintained by the US Forest Service and Corsair Trail Council - this means the trail is well-marked and cleared of fallen trees. fs.usda.gov/hmnf



Photo: US Forest Service



Antler Log Cabin as a five-course gourmet dinner is prepared before you on two antique wood cook stoves. From apple/pear crepes to white chocolate mousse-filled pizzelles, it's guaranteed to be a gourmand's delight. All too quickly it's time for the short ride back to the clubhouse or to your deluxe accommodations. Call 800-729-9375.

## 16. Rockport State Recreation Area

Located on the shores of Lake Huron north of Alpena, Rockport has over 4,237 acres of land and a breathtaking view of Lake Huron at the deep water port and pier. Rockport, with a mix of terrain, has trails that go from rugged to smooth. Rockport is a designated Dark Sky Preserve. A corridor for snowmobile travel runs through the park but there are no groomed snowmobile trails. Call 989-734-2543. michigan.gov/rockport

# 17. Besser Natural Area

Part of Rockport State Recreation Area, Besser Natural Area, a beautiful historic site in Presque Isle, is one of the areas in Michigan with virgin white and red pines. Snowshoe the 1-mile trail that leads through the "ghost town" of Bell, just 20 minutes north of Alpena. michigan.gov/dnr

18. Thompson's Harbor State Park

Trails meander through over 5,000 acres of undeveloped State Park with 7 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. This park provides a rustic retreat for cross-country skiers to explore 6 miles of trails through second growth forest, sand dunes, and limestone cobble beaches. Groomed ski trails are track set. Snowshoers and fat tire bikers - please take care to keep off set ski tracks. There are no groomed trails for fat tire bikes. Two rustic cabins are available for rent (Cedar Haven Cabin is universally accessible). Thompson's Harbor is a designated Dark Sky Preserve. Call 989-734-2543 michigan.gov/thompsonsharbor for reservations.

19. Herman Vogler Conservation Area

The Herman Vogler Conservation Area is 270 acres of dynamic natural habitat. You'll find more than 7 miles of groomed ski trails that wrap around the 9-acre Trout River Flooding. The course is moderate with no serious challenges, although there are some steep hills throughout the trail system. Skiers can access all of the trail loops from the trailhead that starts in the parking lot. The Conservation Area connects to the Huron Sunrise Trail system. piconservation.org

## 20. Ocqueoc Falls



thunderbayresort.com

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The largest falls in the Lower Peninsula, Ocqueoc ("crooked river or water") is a hidden natural gem of Michigan and has two falls - the upper and lower 300 feet apart. The 7-mile Ocqueoc Bicentennial Pathway includes 3-6 mile loops. The groomed ski trails are track set. Snowshoers and fat tire bikers - please take care to keep out of set ski tracks. Fat tire bikes are allowed but there are no groomed fat tire bike trails. Call 989-734-2543 michigan.gov/ocqueocfalls with questions.

Take a refreshing dip at Perchville USA on Tawas Bay!



#### Photo: Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce

- Winterfest Mackinaw City
- Winter Festival Au Gres
- Indian River Winterfest Thunder Bay National Marine
- Sanctuary International Film Festival

#### February

January

- Perchville USA Tawas Bay
- Snow Box Derby Oscoda Don McEwen Kids Ice Fishing
- Tournament Jewell Lake
- Lincoln 250 Enduro Snowmobile Race - Lincoln
- Thunder Bay Classic Sled Dog Race
- **Reel Fun Ice Fishing**
- Tournament on Grand Lake Black Lake Sturgeon Shivaree
- Black Mountain Nordic Ski Races
- March Antique Snowmobile Show
- in Rogers City



Ice formations commonly occur along Lake Huron... seek out these majestic landscapes!





Plan your winter getaway at heritage 23.com





Snowmobiling

Lake Access Public access to the lake (plowed parking is not guaranteed). Shown as blue dots on map.





Walking Trail

Snowkiting

## Come in at the end of the day and warm up!

### Live Theaters

Alpena Civic Theatre.....Thunder Bay Theatre......Cheboygan Opera House......Shoreline Players......Tawas Bay Players

#### Sunrise Side Wine & Hops Trail Uncork Michigan's best kept secret!

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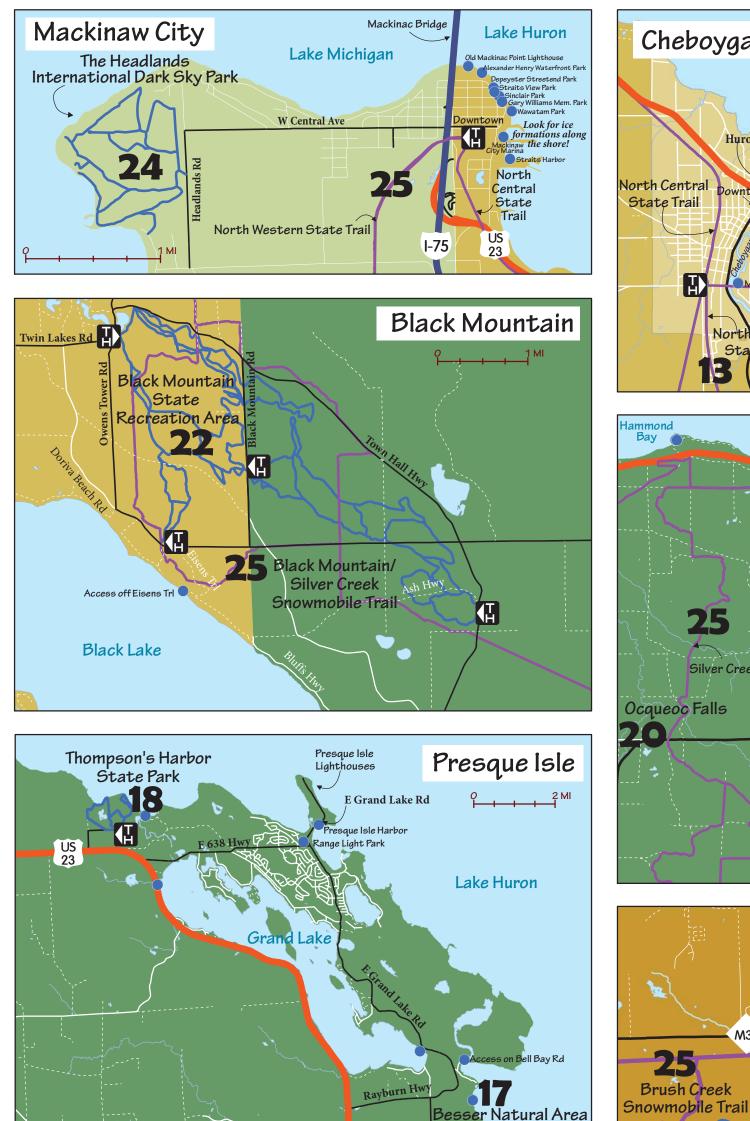
Over 80 arts & cultural establishments along the Lake Huron shore!

### The cast of the Thunder Bay Theatre says... there's more to see on 23!

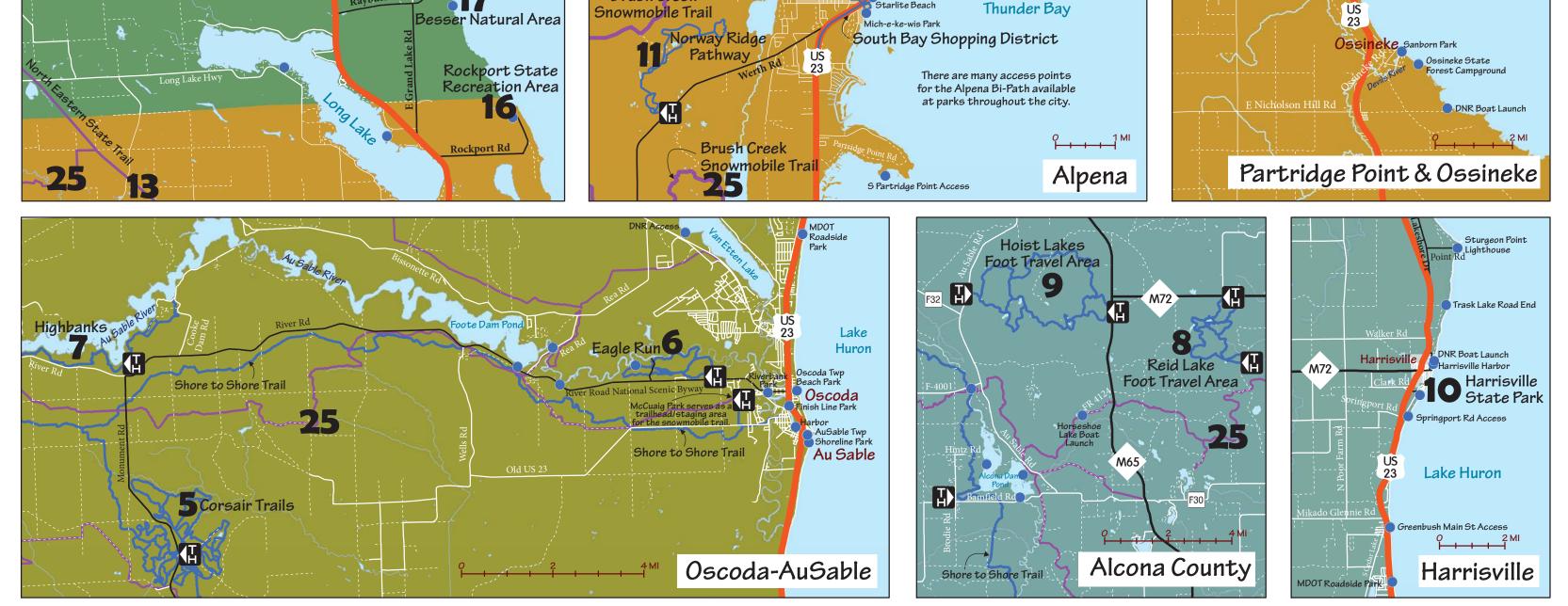
Come in out of the cold to Thunder Bay Theatre in Noven December, February & March (profes ear-round theatre!

Don't forget to try this out.... Sunrise Coast Birding Trail Bring those binoculars on that snowshoe trail... you never know who's waiting for you!



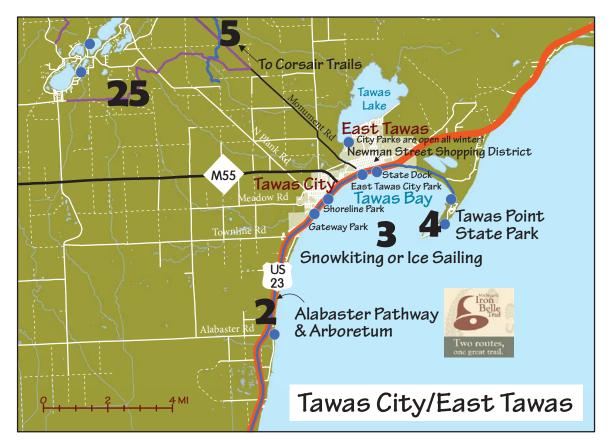






Starlite Beach

Thunder Bay





# **Winter along Heritage Route 23!**

This map highlights great places to visit during the winter months along the US 23 Heritage Route.

