

Michigan

Small-town charm

Year-round activities make Petoskey a perfect destination for groups



Above:
The historic Perry Hotel welcomes groups.

Petoskey is famous for fossilized coral stones. Nestled along the coast of Little Traverse Bay, Petoskey has something for every group's interests.

The Little Traverse Wheelway offers a beautiful place for a bike ride or stroll between Petoskey and Charlevoix. It offers several points of direct access to

Lake Michigan — perfect places to search for Petoskey stones.

Groups can enjoy the views from the water as well. Anglers can test their sea legs on a fishing charter. Small groups looking to get out on the water should consider a sailing excursion through Sunshine Charters in Charlevoix. The

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company offers three tours daily.

The Little Traverse Historic Museum, located in Bayfront Park, shares a history of Northern Michigan, complete with exhibits on Ernest Hemingway's childhood haunts and the history of Petoskey as a resort district.

Just up the hill from the museum lies the historic Gaslight District. The downtown teems with gift shops, boutiques, cafes, and restaurants. Rumored to be one of Hemingway's favorite hangouts as a young man, the City Park Grill hosts live bands. Original decor and hearty meals make for a memorable dining experience.

At the head of the Gaslight District stands the elegant Stafford's Perry Hotel, one of the Historic Hotels of America. Guest rooms bring back the grandeur of the Victorian era, yet are fully equipped with 21st-century conveniences. Its trio of dining experiences serves distinctive meals. Two miles north, Stafford's Bay View Inn provides another place to bask in elegance as well as group packages. The Roselawn Dining Room, open year-round, is home to a favorite Sunday brunch. Stafford's also offers waterfront views and hospitality at the Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs and the Weathervane Restaurant in Charlevoix.

Petoskey has a thriving community of artists. The Crooked Tree Art Center hosts a myriad of local artisans and performers. The summertime Concert in the Park series hosts concerts every Tuesday and Friday.

At Kilwin's, groups can go behind the scenes with a tour of the factory that produces chocolates and ice cream.

In the fall, Northern Michigan's colors make for beautiful drives. The Tunnel of Trees, running north from Harbor Springs to Cross Village, offers stunning views from bluffs above Lake Michigan.

Winter visitors to Northern Michigan will find a variety of snow sports. Nub's Nob and Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs offer skiing. Snowmobile rentals, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing are also wintertime favorites.

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