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SUMMER GUIDE TO THE TAHQUAMENON AREA

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The Newberry News

U.S.P.S. 383980

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Publisher: Steve Stiffler

Advertising Manager: Teri Petrie

The Newberry News is published each Wednesday morning. Periodical postage paid at PO Box 46 (316 Newberry Avenue), Newberry, Michigan, 49868. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for Wednesday (6 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

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This guide is brought to you courtesy of *The Newberry News*.
Published 2024

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Seasonal Hours: 1-4pm
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Late June – Labor Day
Or Call For Appointments
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 **@ Luce County Historical Society**



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Tahquamenon area, where there's always a good reason to get outdoors.

The Tahquamenon area covers the beautiful land from Naubinway, on the shores of Lake Michigan, to Paradise and Grand Marais on the shores of Lake Superior. On the western side, Curtis, Germfask, and Seney boast beautiful rivers and lakes.

Once here, you can swim, fish, hike, golf, shop, camp, and rest. You'll be so glad you came.

*If you seek a beautiful peninsula,
look about you.*

Michigan state motto

If you're looking to unplug, that'll be easy. Cellular service and Wi-Fi access can be limited up here. If you must connect, you'll have better luck on AT&T or Verizon networks, and you can find Wi-Fi at some restaurants, like McDonald's, or at public libraries. The Tahquamenon Area Schools Public Library is closed for renovation this summer, and the Wi-Fi may not be available. In Curtis, the Curtis Library Wi-Fi is always unlocked, though you'll have to sit pretty close to the building to catch the signal.



The Luce County Park and Campground, located on M-98 in Lakefield Township, offers campsites with water and electricity, and an on-site bath house. You can also buy a day pass and go swimming or enjoy the playground, basketball and volleyball courts, or rent a kayak.

If you've come for the wildlife, be sure to visit the Seney National Wildlife Refuge near Seney or Oswald's Bear Ranch north of Newberry. You may see eagles and deer any time, so keep an eye out. Moose sightings are rare, even though Newberry was designated the Moose Capital of the U.P. long ago. If you're hoping to spot a moose, local outdoor enthusiasts recommend kayaking the Tahquamenon River, where the moose are sometimes seen on the banks.

Looking for more information? Visit the Newberry Area Tourism office at 4947 County Road 460, Newberry, Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can also visit www.tahquamenoncountry.com. For after-hours questions, call (906) 287-1962 or email contact@tahquamenoncountry.com.

Enjoy your visit!

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WHAT'S NEW

Most of this beautiful land is just the way it always was, but there are some new updates!

Danish artist Thomas Dambo installed a massive wooden troll, called Benny Beardfisher, on the grounds of the Northland Outfitters campground in Germfask (8174 M-77, Germfask). The giant installation overlooks the Manistique River, and visitors can pay \$10 to park and walk through the campground to visit him.

After two years in the dark, Tahqua-Land Theatre (212 Newberry Ave., Newberry) is showing movies again. Now under new ownership, movies run at 7 p.m. nightly (except Mondays and Tuesdays) and doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movies change weekly on Fridays.

The Falls Hotel (301 Newberry Ave., Newberry) is under new ownership and is expected to re-open this summer with a coffee shop and a Tex-Mex restaurant downstairs. No lodging is offered at this time.

Hank's General Store (2936 County Road 377, Helmer) is continually offering more to customers, like nachos, pizza, and fried cheese curds made to order. Call-ahead orders are welcome; dial (906) 586-6353. They also have groceries, beer, wine, liquor, and necessities.

The former Holiday Stationstore near downtown Newberry is now Circle K.

The Ice Cream Bandits (920 Newberry Ave., Newberry) have updated their menu with new items including Dole whip, a non-dairy, vegan and gluten-free fruit-forward option. Flavors will change throughout the summer.

The Curtis Public Library (N9220 Portage Ave., Curtis) is now an independent library and celebrated its grand opening in mid-May, 2024.



Artist Thomas Dambo, center, in yellow, supervises the finishing touches on giant troll Benny Beardfisher, which was installed on the grounds of Northland Outfitters in July 2023.

Newberry now has a 24-hour gym, Yooper Fitness (13788 M-28, Newberry). New guests need to sign up during desk hours - Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 - 6 p.m., Fridays from noon - 2 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. - noon.

Sugar Heaven Home Bakery (210 W. John St., Newberry) hosts a porch pop-up weekly on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu varies weekly, and all items are made from scratch by accomplished home baker Sarah Sumbera.

The Newberry News (316 Newberry Ave., Newberry) has been named Newspaper of the Year in the weekly class D category for two years in a row. A hyper-local, independent publication, *The Newberry News* is sold in many area locations or at the *News* office. They also offer copy, print, and fax services. For assistance call (906) 293-8401.



Oswald's Bear Ranch

Highway H-37, 8 Miles Northwest of Newberry

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Living in a natural setting, the bears roam freely within their well-maintained habitat. Visitors can walk about the entire perimeter to view the bears in five natural habitats. New rescued cubs each year.

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From Newberry, go 4 miles north on M-123 to Deer Park Road (407), turn left and go 4 1/2 miles.

Have your picture taken with bear cubs!



Photo courtesy of Jeff Seidel, Detroit Free Press

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NEWBERRY

Newberry is pretty centrally located in the Tahquamenon area, and sits right on the Tahquamenon River.

The village was founded in 1882, a railroad town focused on logging and iron ore smelting. Newberry still features some historic buildings downtown, and museums that honor the town's history.

Newberry now thrives on its connection to the outdoors. Locals spend a lot of time hunting in the fall, fishing year round, and enjoying the trails.

DON'T MISS:

Visit the Dollarville Dam, just off County Road 405 west of Newberry. Catch the sunset, take a walk, or fish the dam. Free to visit.

The old Sheriff's Residence and Jail, now home to the Luce County Historical Society, was built in 1894. The residence has a turret, arches and elaborate porches, and a solid two-story jail in the rear portion of the building.

The museum joined the State Register of Historical Sites in 1976 and in 1982 became part of the National Register of Historical Sites. Free admission. The museum is located at 411 W. Harrie Street. Hours are 1 - 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday from late-June to Labor Day.



The 240-acre Oswald's Bear Ranch sanctuary is home to 50 bears. It's open for walkthrough tours from Memorial Day through October 6, and is one of the most popular attractions in the Newberry area.

If you love wildlife, visit Oswald's Bear Ranch, where you can observe black bears in a 240-acre sanctuary. Dean and Jewel Oswald rescue orphaned cubs from nearby states, nurturing them in habitats with many trees and water streams. The ranch is open seven days a week from Memorial Day weekend through October 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$30 per vehicle, or \$15 for lone visitors. Additional \$10 per person charged for vehicles with more than six occupants. Head to 13814 County Road 407 (also H-37), Newberry.

Once you've gone to Oswald's, travel north just a bit farther and visit the Pine Stump Restaurant, which is now owned by Rob Stein. Stein has made the place famous for its home-made pizza, and soups from scratch. He schedules live entertainment. Call (906) 658-3364, or head to 23583 County Road 407, Newberry. (About 20 miles north of Newberry, actually.)



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Sat. June 22 (Saturday ONLY)
Sat. July 27 • Sun. July 28
Sat. Aug 24 • Sun. Aug 25
Sat. Sept 28 (Last breakfast of the season)

Sept. 28 - Rock the River Car Show
Oct. 21 - Haunted Lumberjack Ball
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TAHQUAMENON FALLS

The Tahquamenon Falls attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, and in every season. The falls are located in the Tahquamenon Falls State Park, and on the eastern end of the Tahquamenon River. The flow can reach 50,000 gallons per minute.

Visitors to the Upper Falls can walk a short half mile from the parking lot to the overlook and take the 97-step descent to the water level, standing right where it drops 50 feet to the water below.

The park is 13 miles long and includes trails both along the river and in the adjacent woods. The trails are popular all year long.

DON'T MISS:

Swim in the Lower Falls area. Located further east along M-123, the Lower Falls feature smaller falls and a family-friendly swim environment.

The Lower Falls feature five smaller falls and are located four miles east of the Upper Falls. An attached campground is located near the Lower Falls, with year-round camping and some campsites with 50 amp service. A new pedestrian bridge has been installed to help visitors walk across the Tahquamenon River to the island in the center of the Lower Falls area.

Animals seen in the park have included moose, black bear, coyote, otter, deer, fox, porcupine, beaver, mink, and many birds.



From the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

At the Lower Falls, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources installed a footbridge in September 2021 so visitors can walk across the Tahquamenon River to the island in the middle of the river. It was previously only accessible by boat. The trail from parking lot to the bridge is about half a mile long.

A track chair helps visitors explore areas where traditional wheelchairs may not be able to go. The chairs are on a pair of tracks, like a tiny bulldozer, and are free to use on a first-come, first-served basis. The paved path to the falls is largely flat and easy to maneuver on.

Leashed pets are allowed on all the trails. Parking for large RVs is available at the Upper and Lower Falls.

A mercantile area attached to the large parking lot at the Upper Falls provides tourist shopping, concessions, and houses the Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Pub. Pair the wild rice soup with a traditional pastie, which can be served plain or with ketchup or gravy. Try the microbrew sampler to taste the seasonal beer options.

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PARADISE

So you have two tickets to Paradise! That's great! Enjoy this comfortable town nestled against the shore of Lake Superior, with one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants, and motels.

Paradise is perched at the northernmost tip of M-123, and is also on the path to Whitefish Point. Paradise is home to the Whitefish Township Community Schools district, with hardy students who spend much time in the pristine outdoors of this area.

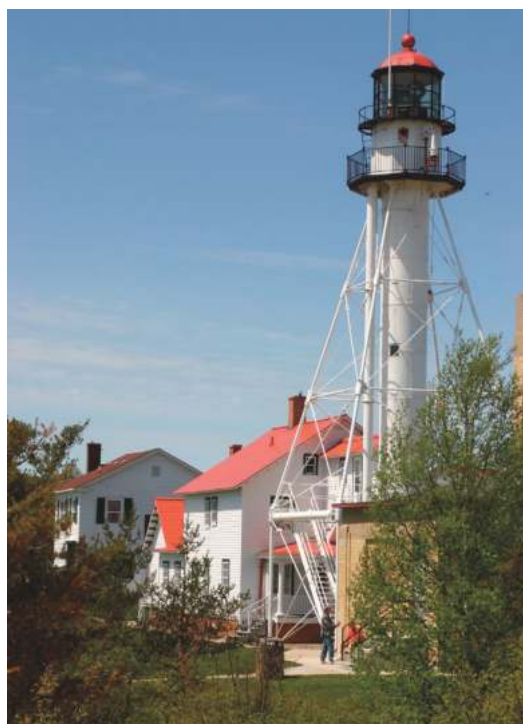
It's also the scene of an annual Wild Blueberry Festival, set this year for August 16 - 18, 2024. Visit wildblueberryfestival.org for more.

DON'T MISS:

Wild blueberries are ample in this part of the Tahquamenon area, and can be picked on public lands from late July through August. Ask locals when and where to go!

If you have four-wheel drive, consider making the trek to Crisp Point Lighthouse at 1944 County Highway 412. The lighthouse is 14 miles west of Whitefish Point and the roads are rough. Consider asking a local for directions first, as maps can make this historic lighthouse hard to find.

The lighthouse was built in 1903 and was one of the five Life-Saving Service Stations on the shore of Lake Superior between Munising and Whitefish Point.



Whitefish Point is home to a historic lighthouse, a visitor's area focused on the Edmund Fitzgerald, and a bird observatory. The parking lot and access to Lake Superior are always open, even when the visitor's center is not.

Paradise is also on the path to Whitefish Point, home of the Shipwreck Museum and Whitefish Bird Observatory. A visitor center and gift shop is available on site. For more information, call (906) 492-3596 or visit wpbo.org.

You can also access Lake Superior from Whitefish Point, and from several other roads that branch off North Whitefish Point Road, which is connected to M-123.

This is also a good area to hunt for Yooperlite rocks, the sodalite-rich syenite rocks that emit light when under a ray of infrared light. Read more about Yooperlites on page 17.

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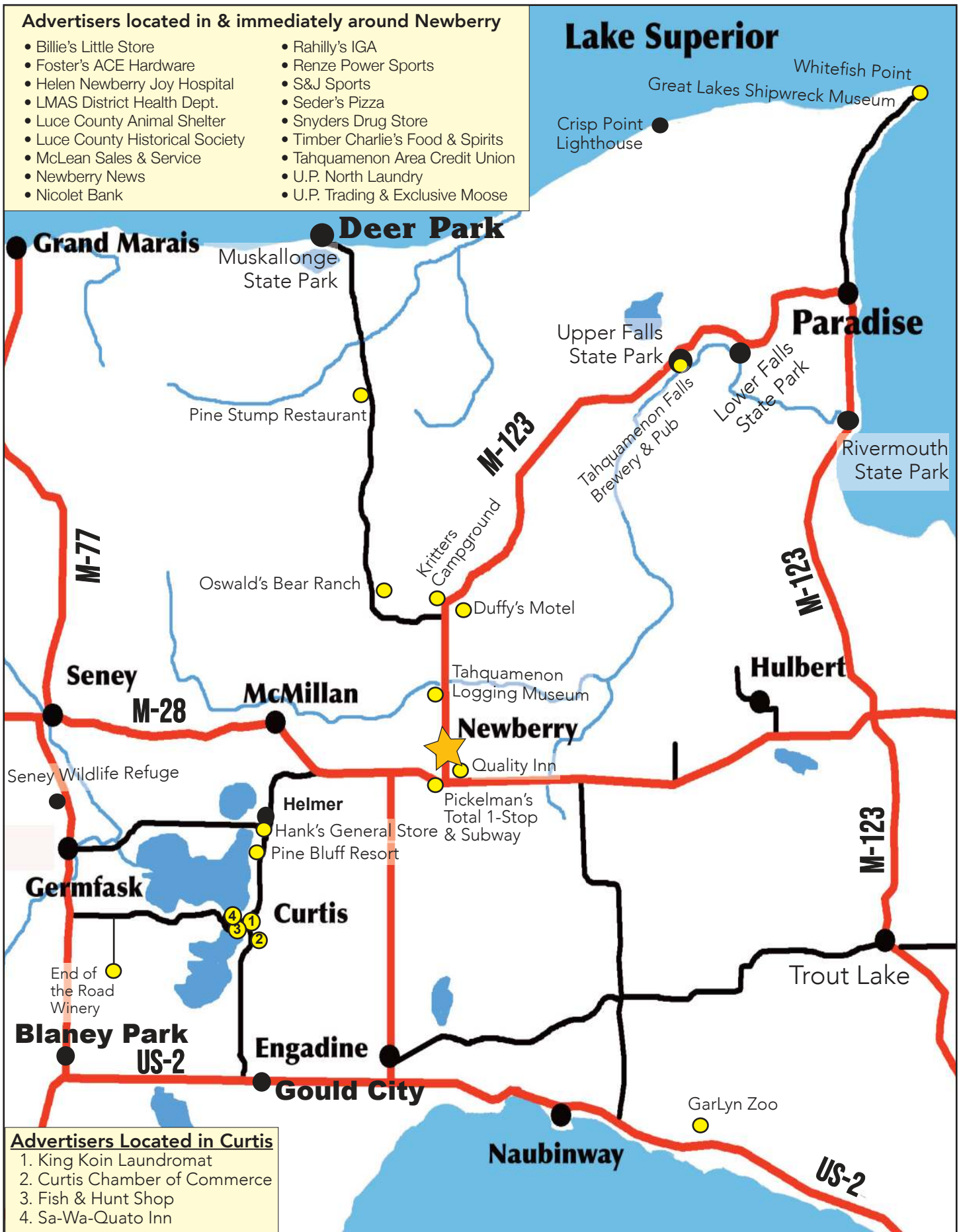
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GRAND MARAIS & YOOPERLITES

Grand Marais is a quaint town on the shore of Lake Superior, with huge sandy beaches and a rockhound's dream. Main Street takes you right to a parking area and beach access complete with an observation platform.

Try Archie's West Bay Diner (E21825 Veteran St., Grand Marais) or pick up a pizza from the Grand Marais Tavern (14260 Lake Ave., Grand Marais) - the crust is wonderfully soft.

DON'T MISS:

Head to the top of the Log Slide Overlook, on Hwy 58 west of Grand Marais. The view is breath-taking, but it's very steep. Don't go down if you can't get back up - getting rescued is expensive!

Just west of Grand Marais you'll find the Sable Falls, Grand Sable Lake, and the Log Slide.

The Grand Marais lakeshore is part of the Pictured Rocks lakeshore, a must-see area for any visitor to the Upper Peninsula. The Pictured Rocks can be seen jutting out to the west of the Log Slide area, and H-58 connects the two destinations.



The Lake Superior shoreline is a favorite spot for rockhounds, who these days are often searching for Yooperlites. Of course, you can also hunt for agates.

Scan the beaches for Yooperlite rocks, the sodalite-rich syenite rocks that emit light when under a ray of infrared light. You'll need a UV flashlight and a late bedtime. Head to the beach at sunset, drop a marker to help yourself find your way back, and keep your UV flashlight pointed at the rocks. Newberry native Erik Rintamaki, who vaulted into global fame after discovering the rocks a few years ago, recommends holding your flashlight at head level, though it's important to avoid shining it in the eyes of those around you.

UV flashlights are available at hardware stores, Mark's Rod and Reel, and even some gas stations and gift shops.



Area Tourism Bureau

Welcomes you to Curtis!

Upcoming Events

HUGE YARD SALE!

May 24 & 25, 2024 • Vacant lot behind
Tally Ho, 1 block north of Main Street

Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, July 6, 2024 • 12-6pm
Sunday, July 7, 2024 • 12-5pm
Food & Craft Vendors and Bands, Erickson
Center Park. Parade Sunday at 12:30pm

Curtis Fireworks!!!

Sunday, July 7, 2024 • Beginning at dusk

Curtis Sidewalk Sales Day

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 • 10am-4pm

Three Bridge Walk

Monday, September 2, 2024

Curtis Oktoberfest

Saturday, September 28, 2024 • 12-7pm
Erickson Center Park

Curtis Community Breakfasts

Every 3rd Sunday • 8am-12pm
Curtis Community Building on Davis St.

Tourism Bureau Lodging

Birch Shores Resort

(906) 586-3771

Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn

(906) 586-6000

Kozy's Resort

(800) 542-3474

Manilak Resort

(800) 587-3285

Pine Bluff Resort

(906) 586-6950

Sand & Stars Resort

(906) 286-3155

Sherman's Resort

(906) 586-6761

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(906) 586-6601

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of Commerce**

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**Manistique Lakes
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www.curtismi.com

(906) 586-3700

Mon-Fri: 9am – 3pm



Curtis Chamber of Commerce
Manistique Lakes Area Tourism Bureau

CURTIS

Curtis is a special place. It's located on a strip of land between two of the three Manistique Lakes. Curtis is a good host. The locals are friendly, there is plenty of resort lodging, and the fishing is great.

Curtis is about 25 minutes southwest of Newberry. Get there from Newberry by taking M-28 west to CR-135, which becomes H-33 and arrives right into the eastern side of Curtis.

The town is well stocked for adventures. You can rent boats or jet-skis, buy fishing gear, or equip yourself for an outdoor adventure. Mick at Mick's Bait Shop shares fishing reports as they come in.

If you're in Curtis for the 4th of July, you're in for a treat. The town offers the biggest Independence Day celebration around, always on the Sunday closest to the 4th. Catch the parade in late morning and then listen to live performances and sampling vendor treats on the lawn of the Erickson Center for the Arts.

Come to Curtis for Turtle Day on Thursday, July 11. The whole town celebrates turtles that day, with games and activities galore. This is a just-for-fun family friendly event!

DON'T MISS:

Visit the Curtis Public Library, located at 9220 Portage Ave., for its friendly atmosphere. Sip coffee in the reading room and tap in to the public Wi-Fi.

The Erickson Center offers local entertainment and enrichment, providing music and events at the Pine Performance Center all year. Visit ericksoncenter.org or call (906) 586-9974.

The Curtis Cafe serves breakfast and lunch; the Shipwreck Inn offers pizza and burgers, and Goodale's Sweet Spot is open late for dessert. Tally Ho Underground, formerly known as Kim's Tally Ho, has a good fish fry on some weekends. The Lakes sells ice cream and Michigan-themed gifts.

For something a bit fancier, make a reservation at Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn. The Inn is under new ownership. You can reach the Inn, which also offers lodging, at (906) 586-6000. The giant waterfront establishment is located at N9450 Manistique Lakes Road, Curtis.

TURTLE DAY



THURSDAY, JULY 11TH

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SENEY, GERMFASK & REFUGE

Seney is located west of Newberry on M-28, and Germfask is just eight miles south of Seney on M-77. The two towns provide bookends for the magnificent Seney Wildlife Refuge.

While in Seney, visit the Fox River, which Ernest Hemingway famously fished. You can access the river from several places on Fox River Road, and from M-77. You can also walk trails along the river for a long way.

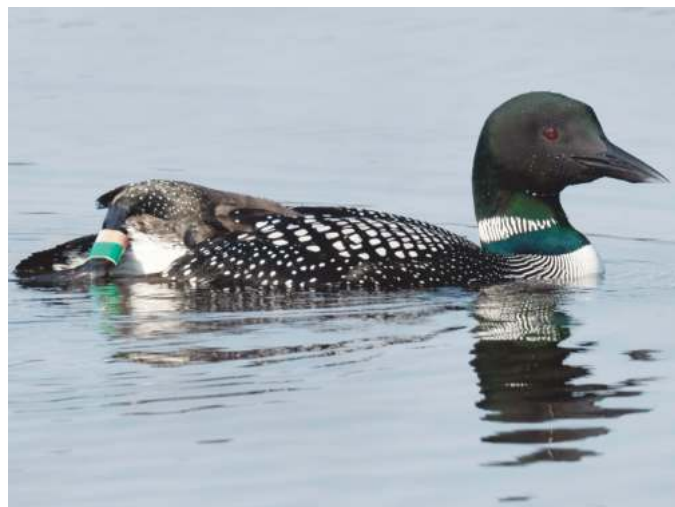
DON'T MISS:

Look for ABJ and Fe, the world's oldest known loons, in the pools at Seney Wildlife Refuge. Formerly together, they have split up, but not before raising dozens of chicks together.

Visit Andy's Bar at 10795 Grand Street, Seney. It's a happening place! Mater's Stop-N-Go (1545 M-28, Seney) is also a local favorite.

In Germfask, visit Kersh's Market and Liquor Store, 8137 M-77. Or dine out at Tovey's Jolly Inn, 8019 M-77, Germfask.

Don't miss Benny Beardfisher, a giant troll built by Danish artist Thomas Dambo, on the Northland Outfitters campground. Troll parking is \$10 per car.



ABJ, seen above, is a male loon that spends its summers at the Seney National Wildlife Refuge. Each summer he returns to the refuge, usually to reunite with his female counterpart, Fe, (say "Fay"). The pair raised 32 chicks together before splitting up in 2022. ABJ is 36, and Fe is at least 37, and together they are the oldest known loons in the world.

If you like nature at all — which is probably one reason you found your way to this area — stop by the Seney National Wildlife Refuge. The 95,000 acre sanctuary is home to 200 species of birds and 50 kinds of mammals that are carefully protected and studied.

The visitor's center is closed, and a temporary visitor's center is located at 1986 River Road, Seney. An impressive state-of-the-art visitor's center is being constructed. The projects are funded with \$12.5 million from the Great American Outdoor Act.

Fishing is allowed inside the refuge, but only from the banks. Boats, canoes, or any kind of flotation devices cannot be used. Reach the refuge at (906) 586-9851, and access it from M-77 two miles north of Germfask.

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FISHING, HIKING

If you're here to fish, there are so many places to drop your line.

Anyone 17 years and older must have a valid Michigan fishing license. Anglers under age 17 do not need a license, but must abide by all fishing regulations. For guidelines, visit Michigan.gov/fishingguide.

If you'd like current info on what's biting where, stop in Mick's Bait Shop or the Fish & Hunt Shop in Curtis, or Mark's Rod & Reel in Newberry. Those guys know everything, and have what you need to prepare for a day on the water.

DON'T MISS:

To spy some spectacular, but off-limits, fish, visit Kitch-iti-kipi ("the Big Spring") west of Manistique. The guided raft goes over some huge trout.

Trout is one of Michigan's top sport fish, and local species include brook, brown, rainbow, and splake.

Panfish are easy to find and pleasant to catch with a minimum amount of fishing equipment needed.

If you want to head out on the Great Lakes to fish for the big stuff, it's best to hire a professional, licensed guide. Lake Trout is a common catch, but you could also reel in a coho Salmon, steelhead, or brown trout.



Fly fishing the Two-Hearted River, seen above, is one way to find a decent brook trout or small rainbow trout. No matter what method or fish you prefer, there are plenty of options in the Tahquamenon area.

There are a lot of trail opportunities, including the Pure Michigan trails noted near Newberry on page 7. Elsewhere, the Fox River Pathway starts at the Seney Township campground on the Fox River, just northwest of Seney. The trail is 30 miles long and lightly traveled. Look around for blueberries if you walk it in August.

The North Country Trail takes hikers from St. Ignace to Munising, and will eventually connect Maine to North Dakota.

Near the Tahquamenon Falls, the Natural Area Pathway takes visitors to the Upper Falls and connects to several other trails.

For ORV trails in the area, visit exploringthenorth.com/newberry/dnrmap1.html.

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CAMPING, ANIMALS

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M-28 East of M-123

Kritters Campground — (906) 293-8562
4.5 miles north on M-123

Big Lake Campground — (906) 586-9551
H-33, McMillan

Log Cabin Resort and Campground —
(906) 586-9732; 2 m. west of Curtis on H-42

Michigan Vacation Village — (906) 586-3335
on Curtis Road, H-42

Big Cedar Campground — (906) 586-6684
Germfask

Northland Outfitters — (906) 586-9801
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Camping is also available at state campgrounds in the area, though reservations are highly recommended.

Try the Tahquamenon Falls State Park Rivermouth Campground near Paradise, Muskegon State Park north of Newberry, or Mouth of the Two Hearted River State Forest Campground 35 miles northeast of Newberry.

In Lakefield Township, situated between Curtis and Newberry, the Luce County Park and Campground offers affordable camping on the North Manistique Lake. The campground also has a beach and attached recreation area. RV lots have water and electric. The camp does fill up, so call (906) 293-2999 to see if it has room. Reservations are accepted on two lots.



Children observe a tiger in its habitat at GarLyn Zoo, located east of Naubinway on US-2. The zoo is very popular with guests of all ages.

The GarLyn Zoo Wildlife Park is a medium sized zoo full of large and small animals from North American and around the world. The zoo opened in 1994 and is now in its 30th year of providing animal enjoyment. Go visit grizzly bears, African lions, hyenas, tigers, snow leopards, sloths, binturongs, alligators and more! Guests can purchase feed for some of the animals. Don't forget to enter the parakeet house to feed the parakeets.

The zoo is open 7 days a week May 1st through Labor Day Weekend, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. After Labor Day: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 7 days a week until November 1st. Please call ahead after October 15th due to weather.

Last admission is one hour before closing. The gift shop is filled with wildlife related gifts for all ages and can be entered without paying admission to the zoo. Not that you are going to want to miss seeing the animals though. No food or drinks are allowed into the zoo but a pavilion with picnic tables is located along side the parking lot for your convenience. Parking can accommodate large vehicles and trailers. For more information visit us online at: www.garlynzoo.com and Facebook/[garlynzoo](https://www.facebook.com/garlynzoo).

BUGS

When we venture out into nature, nature greets us in return. That can be glorious, or gross. Here are four of the most common pests in the U.P., and what we can do about them.

Ticks (*March to November*)

The most common tick in the U.P. is the American dog (or wood) tick, which rarely carries disease. The blacklegged (or deer) tick is next most common, and can carry Lyme disease.

What you can do

Use insect repellent with DEET or permethrin (on clothes only). Check for ticks after spending time outdoors. If you find a tick embedded in your skin, grip it firmly as close to your skin as possible, and steadily pull up.



American dog (wood) tick



Blacklegged (deer) tick



Lone star tick



Woodchuck tick

Blackflies (*May*)

Spring's first airborne pest. Small and innocent looking, they like to get in hair and bite, bite, bite. They're out during daytime.

What you can do

They can't bite through clothing, so keep your skin covered. Bug spray with DEET and citronella oil can help.

Mosquitoes (*Mid-May - September*)

Present all day, but even moreso at night, mosquitoes are out when the weather is 50 degrees or more. They can carry West Nile and Zika virus, and Eastern equine encephalitis.

What you can do

Use insect repellants with DEET or citronella, wear loose clothing, cover your head (over a hat works best) with mosquito net, or buy and use mosquito coils.

Stable flies (*Mid-late summer*)

Fast and nimble, these house-fly lookalikes bite almost as soon as they land on skin. Mostly present on the Lake Superior shoreline.

What you can do

Stable flies do not respond to repellants, so cover up with loose fitting clothes and wear thick socks.



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