



By Kristen Hains

Art Northern Michigan Style

Victor Hugo once said, “Art moves. Hence its civilizing power.” If that’s the case, then there’s no place more civilized than Northern Michigan, with its abundant galleries and museums. For a taste of art from all over the country, with plenty of emphasis on what’s created right here in Northern Michigan, plan a stroll through some of the finest art galleries in the area.

Belstone Gallery

321 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 946-0610

Representing artists from Maine to California, Belstone Gallery is an American craft gallery that offers paintings handcrafted jewelry, pottery, watercolors, oils, furniture and blown glass. Local artists represented include Charlie Murphy, Ron Gianola, Al Vigland, Joe Stearns, Tom Clark, Holly Sorensen and Duncan Sprattmoran.

Crooked Tree Arts Center

461 E. Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770
(231)347-4337

Housed in an historic church and boasting two fine art galleries, the Crooked Tree Arts Center

hosts exhibits year-round, highlighting the works of local artists and traveling exhibits. The space also features a 260-seat theater that is used by numerous local performing groups, including the Little Traverse Civic Theater, Northern Michigan Chorale, Little Traverse Chorale Society and the Petoskey Film Theater.

Elements

107 Bridge St., Charlevoix, MI 49720-1401
(231) 547-5820

Elements Gallery is located off the shore of Lake Michigan in beautiful Charlevoix. By bringing

together the creative talents of artists from across the U.S. and Canada, including clocks by David Scherer, lamps and vases by Mark Hines Designs, African serving sets by Michael Aram, bowls and platters by Jones Glassworks, Elements is known by locals and travelers alike as the place for that unique gift or the perfect accessory to complement their home decor.

Jordan Valley Glassworks

209 State St., East Jordan, MI 49727.
1-231-536-0539

Beautiful, hand-crafted stained glass pieces and hand-blown glassware by local artists Glenna Haney, Shellie Bavers, Jay Bavers, Bill Bavers, Beth Bavers and Ruth Ann Gritzmaker fill this unique store in East Jordan. From the most delicate of jewelry items to large wall hangings and sculptures and vases to stained and blown-glass chandeliers, you’ll be amazed by these glass artisans.

Michigan Artists Gallery

309 N. St. Joseph St., Suttons Bay, MI 49682
231-271-4922

Marking their 10th anniversary in May, this contemporary gallery offers an eclectic mix of fine art from award-winning artists in various media including paintings, folk art, shadow boxes, tilework, woodcuts, photography and jewelry. Local artists represented include Jil Johnson, Jesse Hickman, Pat Custer Denison, Char Bickel, Chris Triola, Angela Saxon, Dan Oberschulte, Meredith Krell, Ken Scott, Carla Sutton, Dana Constand and numerous others.

Otis Pottery

01691 M-66 North, East Jordan, MI 59727
231-536-7856

Looking for one-of-a-kind objects designed for use in the kitchen or as decorative accents for your home? Otis Pottery features the work of David and June Otis, both of whom work in both stoneware clay and porcelain. The two say their work is influenced heavily by the cultures of two different continents. Having spent more than 20 years in Germany, the



couple brought their works to Northern Michigan more than 20 years ago. While David’s work is primarily functional, June has developed a series of porcelain and clay objects—kimonos, animals, angels, and abstractions—that are mounted and framed. Visit the gallery to witness pottery being crafted, tiles being pressed and, if you’re lucky, see a wood firing in progress.

For a full gallery listing, go to www.record-eagle.com/area_guide/

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play in the snow

By Tom Tracey

Plenty of winter fun is available in Traverse City. Boarding, skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, tubing—it's all here and more.

Northern Michigan's winter sports season runs from late November to late March. The following places are family friendly, fun and cost \$10 or less.

Boarding

Mt. Holiday Inc.
3100 Holiday Road, Traverse City

Non-profit, community-run Mt. Holiday is one of the closest slopes to downtown TC—and one of the most reasonable. That's why there's no shortage of new friends to meet while running the pipes. The \$7 rope tow rate is a bargain (offered from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday). Just visiting for the day? Rent a snowboarding package.

(231) 938-2500; www.mt-holiday.com

Skiing (Cross-country "Nordic")

Muncie Lakes Pathway or
Sand Lakes Quiet Area

Sometimes the best things in life are right underneath our noses. The cross-country trails in the southeast corner of Grand Traverse County are as pristine as those hundreds of miles to the north.

How about trying the Muncie Lakes Pathway or Sand Lakes Quiet Area trails? Both meander 10 miles along placid, unspoiled lakes, and there is a good chance you'll spot signs of coyote, deer and eagle (if not the critter itself).

The Muncie Lakes Pathway is located on Brownbridge Road, west of Supply Road. The Sand Lakes Quiet Area is located on Broomhead Road, south of M-72 and east of Turtle Creek Casino. Free.

Skiing (Downhill "Alpine")

Hickory Hills
2000 Randolph Street, Traverse City

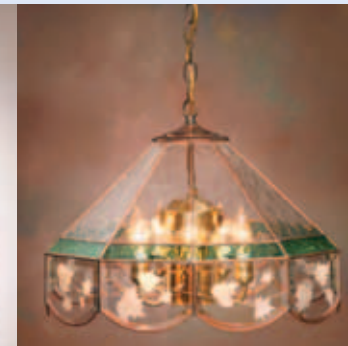
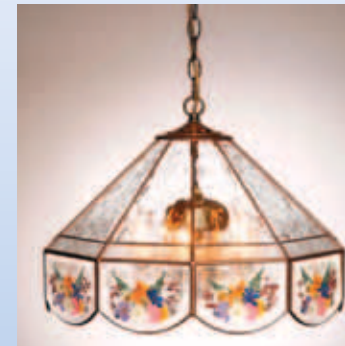
This city-owned ski slope features eight runs, night skiing and a ski patrol. Now close to 125 acres, Hickory Hills started life as a 12-acre park. The best deals are found on weekdays as well as Saturdays and holidays after 4 p.m., when children and seniors can ski for \$10.

(231) 922-4910; www.ci.traverse-city.mi.us/services/hickory.htm

Snowshoeing

Old Mission Lighthouse

For snowshoeing with a twist, try tromping around the Old Mission Lighthouse Township Park, and let the bay be your backdrop. Take M-37 north to the tip of Old Mission Peninsula. Free.



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