

FRESH COAST BEAUTY

MARQUETTE AREA ACTIVITIES YOUR
WEDDING GUESTS WILL LOVE!



Photo by Daniele Carol Photography

The Marquette area is becoming more and more of a hot spot for destination weddings! One of my most popular questions I get from out of town clients is "what there is to do in the area." I moved to Marquette in 2005 and have really enjoyed trying out all the different local activities, whether inside or out. I have listed some of my favorite outdoor activities that will go over great with your visiting friends and families!



My family kayaking and canoeing the Au Train

CANOE OR KAYAK THE AU TRAIN

Pack a cooler, grab your sunscreen, throw on your bathing suit and head east about 35 miles to the tiny town of Au Train. Rent a kayak or canoe from [Northwoods](#) right on the river. There are plenty of beachy spots to pull over and swim or have a snack.



CHECK OUT PICTURED ROCKS

Keep heading east a little more and you will arrive in Munising. This is the home of [Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore](#). There are a number of ways to take it all in including renting a pontoon boat, taking a pirate cruise, going on a shipwreck tour, or taking a guided kayak tour, but my favorite is [Pictured Rocks Cruises](#). They will take you right up close to the limestone cliffs and give you a little history about them. My favorite time to view them is in the evening when the sun is shining on the rock giving them a warm glow. The ride takes about 3 hours. Afterwards, grab a bite at [Eh! Burger](#) or at [Tracey's](#) at Roam Inn if you're bougie and looking for fine dining.



Photo by Sharon Elizabeth Photography

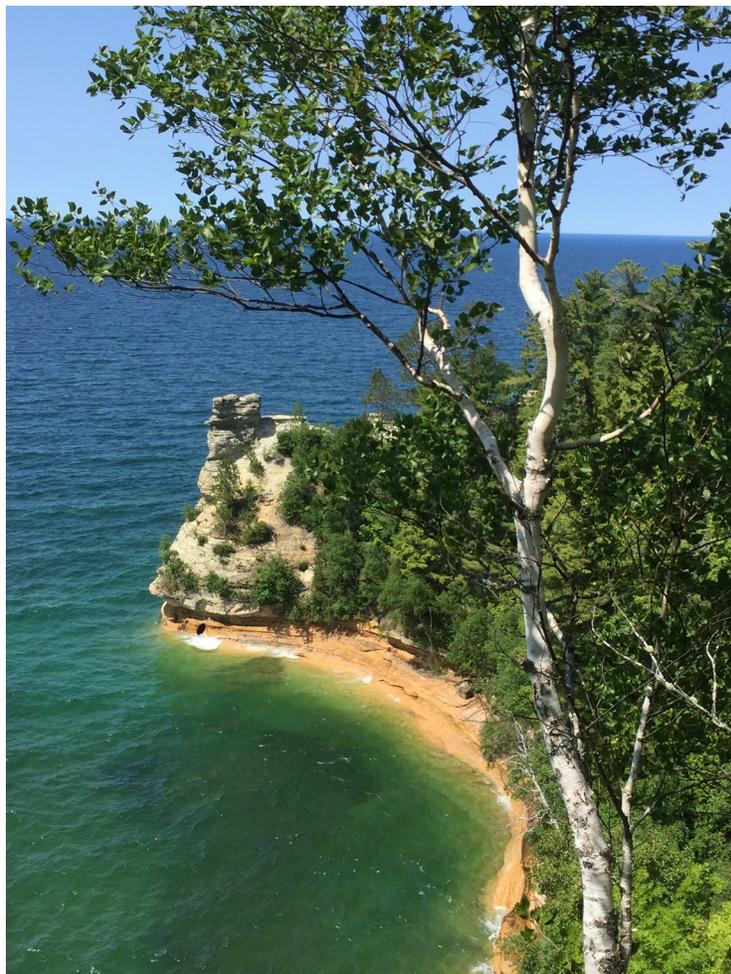


Photo by Melissa Mariin



Photo by Sharon Elizabeth Photography



Photo by Sharon Elizabeth Photography

TAKE A WALK OR BIKE RIDE AROUND PRESQUE ISLE

Check out the breakwall and if the weather permits, you can even take a walk out on it. There are plenty of lookout spots to enjoy the scenery, but be sure to stay within the designated walking areas. You will eventually get to Black Rocks which is a must see! If it's a hot day, you will find people jumping off the 15 foot cliffs into frigid Lake Superior. Witness the huge waves crash into the rocks. This is a great spot for photos and selfies. You will eventually get to Presque Island Pavilion where I got married! The sunsets from this side of the island are a can't miss. The only drawback to Presque Isle is that dogs aren't allowed outside of vehicles.



Photo by Daniele Carol Photography



Photo by Lynn Buckland –Brown

HIKING & TRAIL RUNNING

If you're looking for a nice, easy climb to enjoy breathtaking views, the most popular spot is Sugarloaf Mountain. There is both an easy and a hard route up the hill, both ending with climbing up a series of stairs to get to the top. If you're a more advanced hiker, Hogsback Mountain is another popular destination. This is a more "rugged location. If you would rather just go for a nice scenic hike, Harlow Lake is the best spot. There are endless other hiking trails across the area including to several different waterfalls! Guided trail running tours are available-message me for further information. Click [here](#) for a great guide from Travel Marquette.



Photo by Kris Stunkard



Photo by Sharon Elizabeth Photography

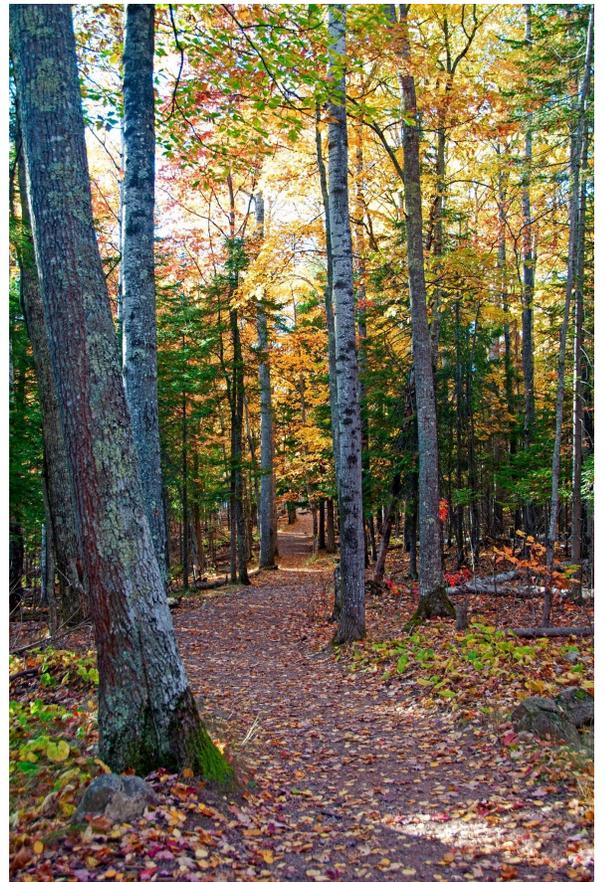


Photo by Sharon Elizabeth Photography

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Marquette has been voted one of the top destinations for Mountain biking year after year. There are trails all along Lake Superior and connecting to the Iron Ore Heritage Trail and the Noque. Don't worry-you don't need to haul your own bikes into town as there are multiple locations where they can be rented! A couple of locations are [Quick Stop Bike](#) or [Lakeshore Bike](#). If you want to take a Fat Tire Bike ride, [Sports Rack](#) has you covered for that. If you prefer a guided tour, [Adrenaline Soars](#) will take great care of you! They offer the perfect opportunity for adventurous and thrill seeking people to experience Marquette's outdoor scene.



Photo by Adrenaline Soards



Photo by Sharon Elizabeth Photography



Photo by Kris Stunkard

ROCK OR ICE CLIMBING

For the really adventurous at heart, this is a fun option! [Downwind Sports](#) offers guided rock climbing and ice climbing trips. Downwind also offers winter gear rentals.



Ice Climbing Photos by Katie Kubont

EBEN ICE CAVES

Take a short hike or snowshoe into the woods and witness for yourself the Eben Ice Caves. They are a natural wonder that happens each winter. Make sure you either have boots with crampons or snowshoes as it is a bit of a treacherous trek to get in to them. Click [here](#) for more information.



Photos by Sharon Elizabeth Photography

SUP

I'm not asking you what's up. This is a newer water sport making big waves! SUP stands for Stand Up Paddle boarding. It is a fantastic upper body and core workout and the best way to enjoy the clear waters of Lake Superior. [Lakeshore Fitness](#) offers rentals and even night tours with LED lights mounted to the bottom of the board! This allows you to see 25 feet down into the water. To make it even better-fish are attracted to the light so it is very likely that you will be seeing some swimming beneath. Have no fear-Lake Superior is salt and shark free! As an added bonus, this is a dog friendly activity so your pup can take a ride with you. Lakeshore fitness also offers SUP Yoga and Paddle Fit. Can you think of a better way to start your day than balancing on a board out in the lake? (falling into the water will definitely wake you up.)



Photo by Lakeshore Fitness

CHARTER FISHING

There are a number of Charter Fishing companies that launch between Marquette and Munising. Tours along the Lake Superior Shoreline or Stannard Rock are the most popular locations. No experience is necessary because they provide all the equipment, bait the hooks, coach you through reeling your Lake Trout or Salmon in, and even clean the fish for you! They also offer sightseeing tours or sunset cruises.



Photos by Sharon Elizabeth Photography



THE DOWNTOWN MARQUETTE FARMERS' MARKET



Photo by Kevin Keller

If your guests are looking for something to pass the time wedding morning while Fresh Coast Beauty is prepping your hair and makeup, the [Marquette Farmers' and Artisans Market](#) located in the Marquette Commons is a great family friendly spot. The hours of operation are Saturdays from May to December from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Wednesdays from June through September from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Their mission is "To support local farmers, growers, and artisans; to make available wholesome, quality food and goods, and to provide a festive marketplace that benefits the Marquette Community." Stroll around and shop the freshly made baked goods, produce, honey, art pieces, wine, coffee, jewelry, just to name a few while listening to local musicians entertain the crowds.

THE CITY OF MARQUETTE: LOWER HARBOR, THE LIGHTHOUSE, THE ORE DOCKS, AND THE LAKE SUPERIOR SHORELINE

Take a stroll along the Lake Superior shoreline. There are miles of white sand beaches, two ore docks, the lighthouse, and even iron ore boats pulling in and out of the harbor. Mattson Lower Harbor in downtown Marquette has walking and bike trails along the water and a large playground for the kiddos. While you're down there, be sure to stop in at [Thill's Fish House](#) and get some fresh caught Lake Superior Whitefish or some whitefish spread. Yum! Make your way up Washington Street and hit all the local shops including some delicious chocolate or sea salt caramels from [Donckers!](#)



Photos by Sharon Elizabeth Photography

THE BIG BAY LIGHTHOUSE



Photo by Sharon Elizabeth Photography

Take a short ride north to Big Bay and enjoy the [Big Bay Lighthouse](#). For over a century, mariners have relied on Big Bay Point's light to guide them along this remote and rocky stretch of Michigan coastline. Although automated in 1941, the romance and lore of the site are undimmed. Today it operates as a Bed and Breakfast. If you're looking for some extra relaxation and a unique experience, get a massage in the [massage hut](#) located in a secluded wooded area 30 feet above Lake Superior. The front walls are screened allowing the sights, sounds and scents of the lake and surrounding woods to add to the relaxation of the massage without letting the bugs enjoy you. The back wall and 1/3 of each side wall are solid to provide privacy. The hut is at the end of a trail that is accessible only to massage hut guests. If Big Bay sounds familiar, it is the location of the film Anatomy of a Murder. There are cultural references to the film all over town.

GOLF OF ALL TYPES

There are several golf courses located in the Marquette area, but only Gentz's will let you play up next to a herd of Bison!

For details on each of the courses, check out this link from Travel Marquette click [here!](#)



Disc Golf is another great way to enjoy the outdoors! There are several courses in the area.

For more information click [here!](#)



These are just a few of the amazing things to do while visiting the Marquette area!

We hope you enjoy your stay!

To view this blog post for more pics and videos click [here!](#)