



Getting Dirty Travel Guide 103

Traverse City, Michigan

Day 1: Arrival, Exploring Old Mission Peninsula & Sunset Dinner

Stay:

- The Inn at Black Star Farms (Luxury vineyard B&B with gourmet breakfast)
- Antiquities' Wellington Inn (Elegant downtown mansion with historic charm)

Morning:

- **Arrive in Traverse City** and check in to your upscale B&B.
- Bike the TART Trail – Rent a premium bike from Brick Wheels and ride the scenic Traverse Area Recreational Trail (TART), which connects downtown to beaches, parks, and wineries.

Lunch:

- Jolly Pumpkin (Lakeside brewpub with fantastic farm-to-table cuisine)
- Try their famous **truffle fries** and a local craft beer.

Afternoon:

- **Wine Tasting on Old Mission Peninsula** – Explore world-class wineries with stunning bay views:
 - Chateau Chantal (Best sunset views)
 - Bowers Harbor Vineyards (Known for Riesling & ciders)
 - Bryant Vineyards (Boutique experience with personal tastings)
- **Cherry Picking at King Orchards** – Pick fresh cherries in season and enjoy homemade cherry pie.

Evening:

- **Sunset Dinner at The Boathouse** – Waterfront fine dining on **Bowers Harbor**. Order **fresh-caught whitefish or filet mignon**.
- **Catch the Sunset at Mission Point Lighthouse** – The best **romantic and peaceful** sunset spot on the peninsula.

Day 2: Sailing, Kayaking & Shopping

Morning:

- **Sailing Excursion on Grand Traverse Bay** – Charter a private sailboat with **Sailing Yacht Scout** or book a luxury **Tall Ship Manitou** sailing tour.
- **Breakfast at Amical** – A European-style café known for its **French toast and espresso**.

Afternoon:

- **Kayak or Paddleboard on Boardman Lake & River** – Rent from The River Outfitters and paddle through downtown Traverse City's scenic riverway.
- **Lunch at The Cook's House** – A Michelin-star-worthy farm-to-table experience with fresh, sustainable dishes.
- **Shopping in Downtown Traverse City** – Explore upscale and unique boutiques:
 - Cherry Republic (Iconic cherry-themed goods)
 - Horizon Books (Independent bookstore with cozy coffee shop)
 - Ella's (Women's high-end fashion boutique)
 - Rare Bird Brewpub (Local craft beer stop with a hip vibe)

Evening:

- **Art Walk in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons** – Historic repurposed hospital with **art galleries, boutiques, and wineries** inside.
- **Dinner at Trattoria Stella** – Located in **Grand Traverse Commons**, this cozy Italian eatery is known for **handmade pasta and incredible wine selection**.
- **Sunset at Clinch Park Beach** – Relax with a glass of wine as you watch the sun set over the bay.

Day 3: Sleeping Bear Dunes Adventure & Farm-to-Table Dining

Morning:

- **Breakfast at Red Spire Brunch House** – A unique destination
- **Drive to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore** (45 min) – Hike the **Dune Climb** for panoramic lake views or take the **Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive** for breathtaking photo ops.

Afternoon:

- **Lunch at Blu (Glen Arbor)** – Upscale lakeside dining with **fresh seafood and stunning views** of Lake Michigan.
- **Paddle Crystal River's** gin clear water and escape from the noise
- **Explore Glen Arbor's Art Scene** – Visit:
 - Cherry Republic Glen Arbor (Try cherry wine & gourmet treats)
 - Cottage Book Shop (Charming indie bookstore in a log cabin)

Evening:

- **Finally The Mill Glenn Arbor** for a cozy dining experience
- **Final Sunset at Pyramid Point** – A short hike with **one of the most spectacular sunset views in Michigan**.

Local Tips:

- ✓ **Book wineries and sailing tours in advance** – Summer is peak season!
- ✓ **Pack layers** – It can get cool by the water at night.
- ✓ **Visit early or late in the day** for the best experience at Sleeping Bear Dunes.
- ✓ **Ask locals** – They always know the best hidden gems!
- ✓ Michigan history buff? don't miss **Fishtown** for local galleries and restaurants