

ENJOY BY CAR, BIKE AND FOOT...

FALL COLOR TOURS & HOT SPOTS

Nature puts on a stunning show in the old timber forests surrounding Charlevoix. With vibrant autumn colors, savvy visitors know the special appeal of this quiet season. Take a scenic drive, grab a bike, or find a trail to explore the colors up close.

DRIVING & MOTORCYCLING TOURS

AROUND LAKE CHARLEVOIX ()

From downtown Charlevoix, the around-the-lake route is 43 miles and approximately 1 hour drive time.

Travelling north on US-31, begin your journey by turning east/right one mile out of town onto Boyne City-Charlevoix Rd. Watch for Maplewood Farm, and be sure to stop in Horton Bay for a little Hemingway history at the General Store or Red Fox Inn. After reaching Boyne City, follow the lakeshore to Advance. In Advance, turn left on Advance Road toward East Jordan; follow Advance Rd, turn left on Sunset St. (Sunset street turns left and becomes Division St.) Turn right on Main St; at the end of Main St, turn right on to Mill St; Mill turns slightly right and becomes Water St. Turn right onto M-66 north, and follow this back to US-31, just south of downtown Charlevoix.

AROUND LAKE CHARLEVOIX – THE Ironton Ferry Way ()

Looking for a unique route around Lake Charlevoix? Follow the directions above, but keep driving along the shore through Advance onto Ferry Rd. You'll reach the Ironton Ferry to cross the narrow south arm. It's a Ripley's Believe It or Not landmark.

TUNNEL OF TREES ()

Rated one of the most scenic, winding roads in America, especially for the motorcyclist, take a day trip north and check out the M-119 Tunnel of Trees. From Charlevoix, take US-31 north toward Petoskey, then M-119 toward Harbor Springs. From Harbor Springs travel north on M-119.

Be sure to stop in Cross Village for lunch or a drink at Legs Inn.

ANTRIM ADVENTURE ()

Farms, orchards, rolling hills, and Lake Charlevoix's south arm fill this 35-mile tour. Travel south from Charlevoix along US-31 toward Atwood; turn east on Ellsworth Rd (C-48). Take C-48 for five miles, turn left on Church, left again at the next stop, all staying on C-48. In East Jordan, turn left (north) on M-66; travel north on US-31 back Charlevoix.

THE BREEZEWAY ()

Rolling hills, picturesque Michigan farms and the south arm of Lake Charlevoix are highlights of this tour that initiates in Atwood, passes through Ellsworth and East Jordan, and finishes in Boyne Falls. Depart south from Charlevoix along US-31 toward Atwood; turn east on Ellsworth Rd (C-48). Follow the road to East Jordan, along the Boyne City/East Jordan Rd to East Deer Lake Rd, ultimately arriving in Boyne Falls at M-75. (It is approximately 25 miles from Atwood to Boyne Falls.)

TORCH LAKE TOUR ()

Depart south from Charlevoix on US-31 toward Eastport, then head east on M-88 for less than a mile. Turn south on East Torch Lake Dr (Hwy 593), and stay along the east side of Torch Lake. Turn east on Bellaire Hwy (Hwy 620), and follow into downtown Bellaire. Enjoy craft beer, food and live music at Shorts Brewery on Bridge Street.

JORDAN RIVER VALLEY ()

Be sure to enjoy the scenic overlooks including the spectacular Jordan River Valley. From Charlevoix, head south on US-31. Take M-66 south to East Jordan, continuing south on M-66 to Alba Rd (Hwy 620). Turn left (east) on Alba Rd. Take a left at the junction of US-131. Continue five miles to the Dead Man's Hill turnoff and go left. Backtrack to US-131, travel north toward Boyne Falls. From Boyne Falls, take M-75 north to Boyne City, then around the lake back to Charlevoix.

HIKING & BIKING ADVENTURES

1 AVALANCHE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE (cityofboynecity.com) ()

Hiking and biking trails consisting of 300 plus acres of woodland with predominantly sloping terrain. Avalanche Overlook has 462 steps to the top with a platform available to view Boyne City and Lake Charlevoix.

2 CHARLES RANSOM NATURE PRESERVE (landtrust.org)

With 80 acres of open fields and northern Michigan hardwoods, Charles A. Ransom Nature Preserve has a 1.5-mile trail system. Thanks to its 320-foot elevation, visitors enjoy panoramic views of Lake Michigan, Leelanau Peninsula, Fox Island, and Beaver Island.

3 DEADMAN'S HILL (antrimcounty.org) ()

A 3.1-mile day hike combines woodlands with a bit of logging lore. The short loop begins with a downhill section followed by some uphill walking at the end. The wide trail is easy to follow with spectacular Jordan River Valley views.

4 FISHERMAN'S ISLAND STATE PARK (fishermansisland.com)

A 2,678-acre park with three miles of trails for all to enjoy and six miles of untouched Lake Michigan shoreline.

5 GLACIAL HILLS PATHWAY AND NATURAL AREA ()

Just outside of Bellaire, Glacial Hills offers beginner, intermediate, or advanced trails covered by 800 acres of moderately dense forest.

6 HILL NATURE PRESERVE (landtrust.org) ()

A mix of pines, hardwoods, and open meadows on 106 acres. Apple trees are remnants of an old farmstead. Views of Lake Charlevoix are found at the highest points of the land.

7 LAKE TO LAKE TRAIL (laketolaketrail.com) ()

Numerous biking and walking trials connect to make up the entire Lake to Lake Trail system. These non-motorized, multi-purpose trails are perfect for running, hiking, biking, in-line skating, snowmobiling, and equestrian activities.

8 LITTLE TRAVERSE WHEELWAY ()

The Charlevoix Township Bike Path connects to a 26-mile, non-motorized, paved trail that runs from Charlevoix to Harbor Springs with unique wetland boardwalk, Lake Michigan shoreline access, and two roadside parks.

9 MT. MCSABA RECREATIONAL AREA (cityofcharlevoix.org) ()

& NORTH POINT NATURE PRESERVE (landtrust.org)
For trail seekers—over 100 combined acres of trails and sand dunes with panoramic Lake Michigan views and breathtaking shoreline. Quiet and secluded with beach access.

10 YOUNG STATE PARK (michigan.gov/dnr)

Situated along Lake Charlevoix, the 563-acre park offers forested 4-mile loops with flat and rolling terrain.

