

10 Reasons to Love Spring Camping in Michigan

Here are 10 great reasons to head out to your favorite Michigan Campground.

HOPEFULLY IT'S THE GRAND ROGUE --this spring:

1. Wildflowers. April showers bring May flowers, like the trillium that blanket the forest floor. Harbor Springs hosts an annual Trillium Festival each spring, this year set for May 20-29. To learn more about wildflowers in Michigan , visit the Wildflower Association of Michigan online at www.wildflowersmich.org

Woodland Edibles. Morel mushrooms, wild ramps, leeks and fiddleheads are all delicacies that can be found by foraging through the woodlands of Michigan . After a successful "hunt" you can savor these mouth-watering finds, paired with a fine Michigan beer or wine. Several cities throughout the state - including Mesick and Boyne City - have been hosting festivals celebrate the "mighty morel" for more than 40 years. For recipes and other ideas on how to savor these scrumptious selections, check out Earthy Delights online at www.earthy.com
2. Fishing. Whether you enjoy fly fishing on the rivers and streams, heading out on a charter on the big lake or casting a line for pan fish in an inland lake, you're sure to catch something while spring fishing in Michigan. From walleye, trout, steelhead and salmon to perch, bass and bluegills, this is a fisherman's paradise. Spring is also a great to visit the famed Fish Ladder in Grand Rapids.
3. Wine Tasting. While the 50+ wineries throughout the state of Michigan are open year round, spring is the ideal time to visit as this is when the new releases are available for tasting. Be sure to purchase a bottle or two, to pair with those woodland edibles and fresh catches! For a list of the state's award-winning wineries, visit the Michigan Wine Council's newly revamped website at www.michiganwines.com
4. Bird Watching. Nature centers, sanctuaries and wildlife viewing areas are thriving with opportunities for spring bird watching. For more about birding, visit the Michigan Audubon Society website: www.michiganaudubon.org
5. Paddling. With thousands of miles of rivers and streams, not to mention the inland and Great Lakes , spring is the perfect time to get out in your canoe or kayak and head out on the water for some peace and quite. For more information, check out the website for the Michigan Association of Paddlesport Providers: www.michigancanoe.com
7. Peddling. Michigan is home to some of the most scenic biking trails, ranging in distance and level of difficulty. Whether you're taking a short family trip along a paved trail or are heading out for an off-road mountain bike adventure, you'll find plenty of opportunities around the state. For more information, check out the website for the League of Michigan Bicyclists: www.lmb.org
8. Hiking. Local author Jim Dufresne has published several exceptional books including "50 Hikes in Michigan : The Best Walks, Hikes and Backpacks in the Lower Peninsula" and "Best Hikes with Children - Michigan " which offer great insight into the trails and scenic sites throughout the

state. These, and other titles, are available at bookstores and libraries throughout Michigan .

9. Golfing. Michigan is home to more than 800 golf courses and during the spring season, the rates are often lower, there are fewer people (and bugs) and the temperatures are pleasant. For a detailed list of courses throughout the state, visit Travel Michigan 's award-winning website at www.Michigan.org
10. Geocaching. The hottest new trend for campers and outdoor enthusiasts can be found all around Michigan and we're going to be doing it at the **GRAND ROGUE**. This high-tech treasure hunt takes you off the beaten path by using a portable GPS system to find hidden "caches" in various locations. To learn more about this exciting new outdoor activity, visit www.geocaching.com

No matter which spring activity accompanies your camping trip, be sure to travel with camera in hand to capture the awakening of all around you. To learn more about how to enjoy Michigan 's "Springtime Splendor" and cure your cabin fever, visit www.SpringtimeSplendor.com.