The Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route

A guide to the scenic, historic and recreational opportunities along one of Michigan’s designated highways — Leelanau County

$2.00
Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Mission Statement
The Heritage Route Committee is dedicated to promoting measures which protect and enhance the scenic, historical, and recreational characteristics of Michigan State Highways 22, 109, and 204 as they traverse the rural countryside and unique communities of Leelanau County.
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About this Wayfinding Guide

This Wayfinding Guide provides an overview of the scenic, historic, and recreational opportunities associated with the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route—M-22, M-109 and M-204. The Guide is divided into separate maps for each township/village area. Please read the map icons as if you were driving, bicycling, or walking starting from the southeast side of the County going up and around the County. M-204 is the cross connector as shown by the arrows.
Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route
AN INTRODUCTION

The Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route begins on the east side of Leelanau County at the Elmwood Township line and traverses north along Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan to Northport, then down the west side of the County turning off on M-109 through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, then back to M-22 through Empire to the Benzie County line. The Route also includes the County connector east-west road M-204 which runs across the center of the County and crosses over Lake Leelanau at the narrows. The Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route was officially designated a Michigan Scenic Heritage Route by the state legislature in 2002.

The Heritage Route Committee works to protect the natural and rural landscape with its many vistas and open spaces such as the orchards, vineyards, fields, hills, valleys, forests, and waterways. And, the historic and recreational attributes. The Committee members include representatives from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Leelanau County, each township and village, the MI Department of Transportation, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, organizations, and citizens.

Roadway Safety and Etiquette
The Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route is enjoyed by many people. There are full time and seasonal residents, farmers, visitors and vacationers who all travel the corridor in automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles and on foot to revel in its natural beauty.

Some of the most treasured characteristics of the corridor are also the ones that create the most concern for safety among users. Those concerns include: the heavier traffic area at the southeast portion of the Route and the sightseeing traffic, both requiring sensitivity on the part of motorists, truckers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. When you travel the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route, please be considerate of those who live along the corridor by practicing safe, courteous travel behavior, have “designated viewers”, and use only designated pull offs.
The Landscape and Human Journey

Michigan State Highway 22 evolved during the last century from a muddy wagon track to a major transportation link between the coastal villages of Leelanau County. The Highway serves multiple purposes: it is a major artery of commerce for Leelanau County, a scenic corridor for viewing some of the county’s most memorable vistas, and a gateway to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for over 1.5 million visitors annually. The Heritage Route mostly follows the shoreline of Lake Nippising, the predecessor of Lake Michigan.

Winding and scenic, M-22 acts as the primary corridor around the Leelanau Peninsula. The landscape of the region is a combination of rural and near wilderness with small towns and settled crossroads with residential homes, shops, and tree-lined streets. This Route provides the traveler from Greilickville to Northport, from Leland to Empire, whether local resident, seasonal resident, or visitor the opportunity to experience the many unique villages, businesses, wineries, and scenic views that are woven into the landscape of Leelanau County.

It is because of this special charm that so many people visit Leelanau County year-round to enjoy its beauty, tranquility and rural atmosphere. Tourism in this region is an integral part of the local economy and it is M-22, M-109, and M-204 that provide the routes for visitors and commerce coming into and around the County. As tourism and commerce continued to grow, many citizens became concerned with the increase in use of these roads and the impact that it has on the local communities. It may be inevitable that growth will continue to spill over into Leelanau County and the scenic attributes of the region and the Heritage Route will, in turn, be compromised.

It is for these reasons that the residents of Leelanau County supported the designation of Michigan State Highways 22, 109 and 204 as the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route. The Committee assists in the decision-making processes with the Michigan Department of Transportation to provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to continue to experience the beauty and rural character that this area offers, while limiting the impact of increasing development and tourism on the daily life of local communities. This process allows the residents of Leelanau County a proactive way to participate in the decisions along the Route that may impact growth and development in their local communities.
On M-22:

**Discovery Center Great Lakes**
13240 S. West Bay Shore Drive; [www.discoverygreatlakes.org](http://www.discoverygreatlakes.org)
Great Lakes Children's Museum
Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
Maritime Heritage Alliance
Traverse Area Community Sailing

**Maritime Heritage Dock**
Madeline—schooner
Welcome— replica Revolutionary War arms sloop

**Greillickville Harbor Park**
Elmwood Township: M-22
Beach area, covered picnic facility, grills, playground equipment

**Elmwood Township Marina**
13051 S. West Bayshore Drive
Marina with deep water launch capability

**Roadside Park**
Michigan Department of Transportation
M-22: access to West Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan

**Roadside Park**
Michigan Department of Transportation
M-22: pull off area, view of West Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan

On Cherry Bend Road:

**Cedar Lake Boat Launch**
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Cherry Bend Road, 1/4 mile west of M-22

**Leelanau Trail**
TART Trails, Inc.
Trailhead with parking lot

**DeYoung Natural Area**
Leelanau Conservancy: 2 miles from M-22 on both sides of road
144 acres, historic farmstead, Cedar Lake and Leelanau Trail access, birdwatching, wildflowers, fishing pier

**Cherry Bend Community Park**
Elmwood Township Cherry Bend Road/Lincoln Road
Covered picnic facilities with grills, playground equipment, tennis courts; soccer, volleyball and baseball field
Elmwood Township
Bingham Schoolhouse/Township Hall
National and State Historic Structure
Southeast corner of Bingham Road (County Road 618) and Center Highway Country Road 633)

Boughey Park
Bingham Township: east end of Bingham Road at Grand Traverse Bay
Picnic tables, grills, pavilion and swings, beach area, port-a-johns, trash containers

Groesser Park
Bingham Township: south of Hilltop Road
Sandy shores, scenic view, undeveloped

Boat Launch and Roadside Park
MI Department of Natural Resources and Environment
M-22: near Hilltop Road
Picnic Table, access to West Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan

Hendryx Park
Bingham Township: Lee Point Road 1.5 miles east of M-22 on Grand Traverse Bay
Breathtaking views of Power Island, sandy shore, parking, grill, picnic tables, port-a-johns, trash containers
Bingham Township

Heritage Route Segment
Herman Center Park
Suttons Bay Township: at Center Highway (County Road 633) and Herman Road
Will Active and passive recreation; no facilities as yet.

Lover’s Lane Park
Suttons Bay Township: west end of Lover’s Lane off of Stoney Point Road
Swimming and water access

Vic Steimel Park
Suttons Bay Township—Nanagosa Trail
Swimming, picnic tables, boat launch, grills, trash containers

Please see Village of Suttons Bay inset on pages 14-15.

MI Department of Transportation Roadside Park
Near the 45th Parallel; north of Suttons Bay on
Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan
Pull off for view of Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan

45th Parallel Park
Suttons Bay Township
Passive recreational facility, hiking, views, access to
Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan

Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
M-22 in Peshawbestown

Graham Green Park
Suttons Bay Township east of M-22
Swimming, picnic tables, grills, toilets, wooded area
Suttons Bay Township

Heritage Route Segment
**Sutton Park**  
Southshore Drive  
Swimming, picnic shelter, playground, bathroom

**Leelanau Trail**  
TART Trails: Fourth Street west of M-22

**Water Wheel Park**  
St. Mary’s Avenue  
Picnic tables, open field, bike rack, water wheel on creek

**Leelanau Transit Company Suttons Bay Depot**  
National and State Historic Structure  
101 Cedar Street, Suttons Bay

**Inland Seas Education Association**  
100 Dame Street  
Education, scientific exhibits, wetland demonstration site

**Village Coal Dock**  
Village of Suttons Bay: End of Dame Street  
Fishing pier, boating, boardwalks

**Village Marina Park Complex**  
End of Adams Street: 326 Front Street  
Swimming, bathhouse, boating, boat launch and docks (marina), fishing, playground, walking paths

**Suttons Bay-Bingham District Library**  
416 Front Street

**North Park**  
Village of Suttons Bay: east of M-22 at M-204  
Boat launch, boat parking, covered pavilion, seasonal restroom

**Bahle Park**  
North end of West Street  
30 acres of walking trails, cross country skiing, sledding, warming house

**Deuster Park**  
Village of Suttons Bay: just north of M-204 off of M-22  
Fenced fields, a building, natural wooded area, parking
Village of Suttons Bay
Lake Leelanau Area

**Fountain Point Resort**
Historic District of National Significance/State Historic Structure
990 South Lake Leelanau Drive (County Road 641)

**Horn Road Public Access**
Boat Dock

**MDNRE Public Access/Boat Launch**
County Road 641

**Lake Leelanau Narrows Bridge**
MI Department of Transportation
National Historic Structure

**St. Mary’s Street**
Parking, dock and boat launch

**East Mienrad Street Public Access**
Boat launch, dock, port-a-john

**William Street**
Lake Leelanau Access Site

**St. Joseph Street**
Lake Leelanau Access Site

**Grove Park**
Leland Township Park: Gertrude Street south of M-204
Tennis courts, picnic tables, shelter, playground, water, basketball court

**Lake Leelanau Baseball Diamond**
Leland Township Park: County Road 641 south of M-204
Baseball field, dugout, parking, potable water

**Schneider’s Beach Park**
Leland Township: end of Popp Road on Lake Leelanau
Sandy Beach, dock, picnic area, grills, firepit, boat launch

**Provement Pond Recreation Area**
Leland Township: Popp Road south of M-204
Fishing pond, hiking
Lake Leelanau Area

M-204 Connector Road
Scenic view
M-22 driving north

Omena Historical Society Museum — Putnam House
M-22 in Omena

Omena Beach
Leelanau Township: Omena Point Road off of M-22
Sandy beach, swimming, playground, picnic tables, vault toilet

Omena in Winter

Omena in the Fall

Please see the Village of Northport on the next page.
Municipal Bathing Beach  
Village of Northport: Shore Drive  
Playground, volleyball court, pit toilets

Haserot Waterfront Park  
Village of Northport: Rose Street

G. Marsten Dame Marina  
Village of Northport: 105 Bay Street  
Picnic tables, grills, fishing, boat moorings, swimming, toilets

Mill Pond  
Village of Northport: Mill Street  
Fishing

Buster Dame Recreation Field  
Leelanau Township  
Ball diamonds, bleachers, concession stand, handicapped restrooms

Braman Hill Recreation area  
Leelanau Township: west between Melkild and Johnson Roads  
Scenic overlook, picnic tables, grills, fire pit, water, basketball courts, tennis courts, skateboard park, sledding hill, lighting ice rink, warming room, handicapped accessible restrooms, shooting range, telephone

Sites north of Northport: These areas may be reached using M-201 north out of the Village, reaching county roads.

Finton Natural Area  
Leelanau Conservancy  
Turn right on Northpoint Point Road, just across from Paradisia Road

Leelanau State Park Trails Area — State of Michigan  
Densmore Road off of Woolsey Lake Road near the Woolsey Airport  
8.5 miles of hiking, cross country skiing, swimming, hunting, toilets

Leelanau State Park  
State of Michigan  
Lighthouse Point Road at the Tip of the Peninsula  
42 rustic campsites along Lake Michigan, two mini cabins, picnic pavilion with tables and grills, playground area, pit toilets  
Grand Traverse Lighthouse and Museum

Continued on next page 22.
Village of Northport
Leelanau Township (north)
Leelanau Township (north) continued from previous page - not shown on the adjacent map

Lighthouse West Natural Area
Leelanau Conservancy
Cathead Bay Drive off of Lighthouse Point Road (County Road 629)
42 acres, 640 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline

Kehl (Leg) Lake Boat Launch
North end of Kehl Lake

Kehl Lake Natural Area
Leelanau Conservancy
North of Woolsey Lake Road to Snyder Road to Sugarbush to Kehl Road
227 acres, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, wildflowers

Christmas Cove Park
Leelanau Township: Christmas Cove Road
Sand beach, swimming, picnic tables, vault toilet

Peterson Park
Leelanau Township: Peterson Park Road End
Stairway to beach, picnic tables, grills, play equipment, volleyball area, pavilion, water, vault toilets

Leelanau Township (southwest)

Driving South and West towards Leland:
Note rolling hills and views of Lake Michigan

Pastoral View — Northport Area
Leelanau Township (southwest)
**Houdek Dunes**
Leelanau Conservancy: Five miles north of Leland, north of County Road 626
330 acres, a mile of frontage on M-22, 4,500 feet of frontage along Houdek Creek, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing

**Dr. John G. Suelzer and East Leland Memorial Park**
Leland Township: Northeast Lake Leelanau
.5 miles north of Alpers Road off of County Road 641
Boat launch, dock, parking, beach, picnic area, grills, firepit, playground

**Porter’s Landing NE Lake Leelanau Public Access**
Horn Road off of Lake Leelanau Drive
No parking

**Whaleback Natural Area**
Leelanau Conservancy: M-22 one mile north of M-204 on the west side of M-22
40 acres, bluff, benches, birdwatching, wildflowers, spectacular Lake Michigan view; snowshoeing

*Please see the Leland inset on pages 26-27.*

View from Leland Bridge to Fishtown
Leland Township

Heritage Route Segment
North Beach—Lake Michigan
North Street

Leland Harbor
West of M-22 on the Carp River at Lake Michigan
Harbor of Refuge, marina, fuel and sewage services, boat slip
shower facilities and toilets, boat launch ramp and trailer parking,
commercial excursion boats to the Manitou Islands, charter fishing
boats, picnic area, playground, public toilets

Fishtown
Fishtown Preservation Society
West of M-22 on the Carp River at Lake Michigan
Historic fishing village, working port, commercial fishing boats, retail

Leland Village Green
Leelanau Conservancy
Main Street in Leland across from the post office
A community gathering place at the end of the shopping district

Bartholomew Park and Nedow’s Bay
Leland Township
Foot of Pearl Street on Lake Leelanau
Beach, lifeguard, boat launch, docks, grills, firepit, picnic table

Lake Michigan Beach Access Site
Avenue A

Van’s Beach—Lake Michigan
Cedar Street

Leland Township Area Library
203 East Cedar Street

Leelanau Historical Society and Museum
203 East Cedar Street

Carp River/Lake Leelanau Access Site
MI Department of Natural Resources and Environment: River Street
Boat launch, dock, picnic tables

South Beach—Lake Michigan
Reynolds Street

Hancock Field
Leland Township: Union Street
Softball and baseball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts,
bleachers, skateboard ramps, grandstand, picnic pavilions, drinking
water, parking, concession stands
Leland
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
45,854 acres with 35 miles of shoreline on Lake Michigan, inland Lakes, dune formations, beaches, forests, rural historic farm district Activities: camping, hiking, swimming, hunting, cross country skiing, driving tours, interpretive center with auditorium, programs, snowshoeing, birdwatching, wildflowers, scenic views

Good Harbor Beach
County Road 651 end on Lake Michigan

Good Harbor Bay Picnic Area and Trail
Lake Michigan Road west of County Road 669
Picnic area, beach, hiking trail

Cleveland Township Park
Northwest Little Traverse Lake on Little Traverse Lake Road
Little Traverse Lake access, picnic area

Good Harbor Bay Beach
County Road 669 end on Lake Michigan

School Lake Access
Boat launch

North End Shell Lake Access
MI DNRE and National Park Service Launch Site
Off of Good Harbor Drive (NO MOTORS)

Pyramid Point Trail
Hiking
Spectacular view of Lake Michigan and dunes

Port Oneida Rural Historic District Area
19th century farming and families area

Charles and Hattie Olsen House
Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear
3164 W. Harbor Highway

Backcountry Campground
Walk-in (permit required)
Cleveland and Centerville Townships
Port Oneida Rural Historic District

Bay View Trail
All season with hiking, cross country skiing, views of Lake Michigan

Backcountry Campground
(same on previous page)
Walk-in (permit required)

Tucker Lake Public Access
Between Westman Road and South Dunns Farm Road

Sylvan Inn - State Historic Structure
Glen Arbor: M-109, just west of M-22 (Ray Street)

Glen Arbor Boat Ramp
Lake Michigan at the end of Manitou Boulevard

Glen Arbor Garden
M-22 in the Glen Arbor Business District
Restrooms, garden, walking and sitting area

Glen Arbor Township Park
Tennis courts, playground

Alligator Hill Trail
Forest Haven Drive south of M-109 Trailhead
Hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing

D.H. Day Campground
Entrance off of M-109 west of Glen Arbor: rustic camping for RVs, trailers, and tents; dirt roads, vault toilets, access to Lake Michigan beach; no electric hook-ups or showers

Glen Haven Historic District
End of former M-209
Former settlement with an Inn, general store, visitor center, blacksmith shop, Great Lakes Boat Museum
Lake Michigan Beach Access
Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail

Continued on next page
Sleeping Bear Point
Maritime Heritage Museum
Former Coast Guard Station

The Sleeping Bear Point Loop Trail
Hiking, snowshoeing

D.H. Day Group Campground
End of Harwood Road off of M-22
4 sites for tents, only for groups 7-25 people, vault toilet

Little Glen Lake Public Access
M-109 at the north end of Little Glen Lake
Swimming, picnic area, toilets

Dune Climb Area
M-109 entrance to parking lot, restrooms and concessions
The Dunes Trail to Lake Michigan
Scenic view of Little and Big Glen Lakes, Lake Michigan

Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail
Base of the Dune Climb

Picnic Area
On M-109

Picnic Area
On Pierce Stocking Drive off of M-109

Cottonwood Trail
On Pierce Stocking Drive
Hiking, views of Little and Big Glen Lakes, Lake Michigan

East Side of Little Glen Lake:

Little Glen Public Access
MI DNRE and National Park Service Launch Site
1/4 mile west of M-22 off Day Forest Road
Glen Haven Historic District
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

M-109 north to Glen Haven
Lake Michigan View
Lake Michigan Overlook Area  
On Pierce Stocking Drive off of M-109

Picnic Area  
On Pierce Stocking Drive off of M-109

Shauger Hill Trail  
Entrance area of Pierce Stocking Drive off of M-109  
Hiking, cross country skiing

Picnic Area  
Entrance area of Pierce Stocking Drive off of M-109

Windy Moraine Trail  
Welch Road off of M-109  
Hiking, cross country skiing

North Bar Lake Public Access  
North Bar Lake Road  
NON-MOTORIZED BOATS ONLY; Swimming

Michigan Department of Transportation Scenic Overlook  
North of Empire on the west side of M-22  
Picnic Tables, view of Lake Michigan

Please see Village of Empire inset on pages 38-39.

Shore to Shore Trail  
MI Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Horse trail riding, hiking, camping

Empire Bluff Trail  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore  
Wilco Road south of Empire  
Panoramic view of Lake Michigan from the bluff

Village of Empire/Township Park  
County Road 677 south of M-72 north of Beeman Road  
Picnic Shelter, public campgrounds
Empire Township

[Map of Empire Township with highlighted Heritage Route Segment]
North Park
Village of Empire: off of LaCore Street
Two ballfields (one lighted), 4 picnic grills, walking path, access path to the creek, children’s play area, 2 restrooms, handicap accessible restroom, tennis courts

Chippewa Run Natural Area
Leelanau Conservancy: (brown shaded area) M-22, 0.7 miles north of M-72
110 acres, four separate ecosystems, 1.25 miles of trail, benches at pond, birdwatching, wildflowers, snowshoeing

South Bar Lake Boat Launch
Village of Empire: Lake Michigan Drive north of Niagara

Lake Michigan Beach Park
Village of Empire: Lake Michigan Drive
Pavilion, swimming, playground, lighthouse, restrooms, picnic grills

James R. Johnson Memorial Park
Village of Empire: Reynolds Street
Lion’s Club park, pavilion, restrooms, open space

Empire Area Museum Complex
M-22 two blocks north of M-72
Four buildings and several displays

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Visitor Center/Park Headquarters: M-72 east of M-22

Glen Lake Community Library
10115 E. Front Street in Empire
LEELANAU SCENIC HERITAGE ROUTE
EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
www.nwm.org/lshr.asp

- Map of the Heritage Route
- *Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Management Plan and Update*
- *Guidebook*
- *Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway Plan and Environmental Assessment*
- Tree Management in the Corridor
- Heritage Route Committee Meeting Minutes

M-22 north of Glen Arbor
Resources

Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee
c/o Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
PO Box 506; Traverse City MI 49684
231-929-5039
www.nwm.org/lshr.asp

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
9922 Front Street; Empire MI 49630
231-326-5135
www.nps.gov/sble

Leelanau State Park
15390 N. Lighthouse Point Road; Northport MI 49670
231-366-5422
www.michigan.gov

Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
5046 S. West Bayshore Drive, Suite G; Suttons Bay MI 49682
231-271-9895
www.leelanauchamber.com

Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 46; Suttons Bay MI 49682; 231-271-5077
Visitor Center; East Dame Street, lower level of the Millside Building; 271-1112
www.suttonsbayarea.com

Northport-Omena Chamber of Commerce
231-386-7303
www.northportomenachamber.org

Leland Michigan Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 741; Leland MI 49654
231-256-0079
www.lelandmi.com

Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 217; Glen Arbor MI 49636
231-334-3238
www.visitglenarbor.com

Empire Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 65; Empire MI 49630
231-326-5249
www.empirechamber.com

Leelanau Conservancy
105 N. First Street; PO Box 1007; Leland MI 49654
231-256-9665
www.theconservancy.com