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**Our Readers' Favorite Lake Getaways**

Boating, hiking, and mini-golf are just a few of the fun diversions you'll find at these family-friendly lakes

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**GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN**

Situated where the Grand River feeds into Lake Michigan, Grand Haven is a hospitable little city with small-town charm, an eye-catching lighthouse, and, says Margaret Gall of Medina, Ohio, "water that's so crystal-blue it looks like the Caribbean."

It's also home to a gem of a boardwalk and a large charter-fishing fleet. Watching the boats come in is a favorite pastime for the Moraw kids -- Matthew, age 6, and Sarah, 2 -- of Holland, Michigan, as is spending the day at Grand Haven State Park's popular beach. Says Margaret Gall of the beach, "The first time we pulled in, the parking lot was almost full. But we found a nice little space on the sand all to ourselves." The water may not always be the warmest, she adds, "but it's beautiful." (800-303-4096; [visitgrandhaven.com](#))

**BEST SAND DUNES:** Beachgoers flock to the climbing dunes at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park (231-798-3573; [michigan.gov/dnr](#)). In fact, the Moraws return again and again to an awe-inspiring dune they've dubbed The Blowhole.



Accessible only from the beach, "it offers a big climb up and a fast run down," says mom Elizabeth Moraw. "You hope you're still on your feet when you reach the bottom."

**FAVORITE RESTAURANT:** The long lines outside Fricano's Pizza (616-842-8640; [fricanospizza.com](#)) attest to its popularity. Service is fairly quick, but expect a wait in summer -- and a casual ambience. "There's no air-conditioning, and the red-and-white table coverings get flipped over, crumbs flying, between customers," says Elizabeth. "But a better thin-crust pizza can't be found."



**MOST POPULAR FAMILY DIVERSIONS:**

Grand Haven's impeccably maintained boardwalk draws visitors of all ages, who come for its many shops and eateries. The nearby lighthouse, with its fancy steel catwalk and great lake views, is

also a prime destination. Many visitors like to end their day at Grand Haven's famous Musical Fountain (616-842-3210; [grandhaven.org](#)), a choreographed extravaganza of lights, music, and water.

**BEST ICE CREAM:** Temptations (616-842-7531), on the boardwalk, offers gravity-defying cones, old-fashioned caramel popcorn, and

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