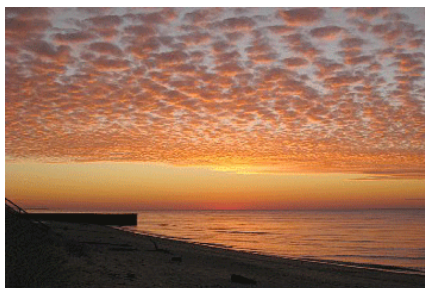


WEEKEND RUNAWAY: GRAND BEACH, MICHIGAN

QUIET SECLUSION JUST 90 MINUTES FROM THE CITY



The last days of summer deserve more than the same old North Avenue Beach routine.

A short 90-minute drive gets you to the southwestern tip of Michigan and the **secluded town of Grand Beach**, with just over 200 residents (including the summer home of former Mayor Richard Daley) and three Frank Lloyd Wright homes.

Where to crash

The **Harbor Grand** is about at push as it gets, with a **beautiful soft pink exterior nestled amidst cypress trees overlooking the water**. Artfully decorated rooms with modern décor get you in a cozy mood, before heading downstairs to **sip wine at their waterside patio while watching the boats dock**.

Starting at \$319 per night. 111 W. Water St., New Buffalo (269-469-7700)

What's doing

Instead of hitting balls into algae-filled water traps, how about slicing one into Lake Michigan? **Grand Beach Golf Course** offers 9 easy holes of laid-back golf with gorgeous lakeside views and mostly flat, tree-lined fairways.

\$18-\$20. 48200 Perkins Blvd. Grand Beach (269-469-4888)

Prefer not to spend your vacation in the sandtraps? Try one of the 3,000 slot machines at **Four Winds Casino**, where modern gambling amenities are housed within a rustic, lodge-style setting.

11111 Wilson Rd. New Buffalo (866-494-6371)

Food/drink

There's no such thing as too much meat around these parts, and at the **Copper Rock Steakhouse** you can choose from a dozen different cuts and ages of prime beef. Make the toughest decision of the trip choosing between 16-ounce Wagyu strip steak and whole Maine lobster. Punt — get both.

11111 Wilson Rd., New Buffalo (866-494-6371)

California vineyards can too easily veer into pretentious snob territory. **Union Pier Tasting Room** offers wines from the less pompous but equally delicious Lake Michigan Shore wine country (OK, maybe not quite as delicious, but they'll still get you plenty buzzed and you'll make lots of new friends).

9185 Union Pier Rd. Union Pier (269-469-6885)

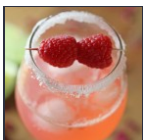
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