

# WEEKEND RUNAWAY: SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN

**SORRY SAUGATUCK, THE SECRET'S OUT**



We all have friends in New York who claim their weekends in The Hamptons are what keeps them sane.

Our hideaway just two-and-a-half hours away from Chicago is sunny Saugatuck, Michigan.

**Delivering beaches, boating, sand dunes, art galleries, and a slap in the face to soon-to-be-jealous Hamptontites.**

### What's doing

The area's main attraction is pristine **Oval Beach**, named by the *Chicago Tribune* as the **Midwest's best beach**. With soft sand, clear water and ample hiking paths, you can either chill in the sun or rent a kayak or sailboat, even do some sport fishing.  
698 Water Street, 9a-9p, \$6 parking fee.

At nearby must-see **Saugatuck Dunes State Park**, dive off 200-foot piles of glistening sand in a quiet, secluded atmosphere. With 2.5 miles of shoreline and 1,000 acres, there's plenty to explore via meandering, well-marked trails.  
2213 Ottawa Beach Drive (269-637-2788). \$8 entrance fee.

Cruise the Kalamazoo River on an old-fashioned sternwheel paddleboat with the **Star of Saugatuck II boat ride**. Watch the sun set over the lake while checking out luxurious homes along the coast during the romantic, chilled-out 90-minute voyage.  
716 Water Street (269-857-4261). \$17.

### Where to crash

Set in a beautiful old stone white mansion, it's tough to beat the **Belvedere Inn**. Enjoy on-site wine tastings and gourmet food while sprawling out in upscale, apartment-style rooms. We recommend the Balmoral Suite with king bed, fireplace and Whirlpool.  
3656 63rd Street (269-857-5777). \$135-\$275 per night.

### Where to eat & drink

The cool atmosphere and friendly bartenders at **Phil's Bar & Grille** set you up to chat up the locals amidst potato-crustied walleye or shrimp and steak pasta. Catch live bands on weekends and a cozy outdoor patio in summer.  
215 Butler Street (269-857-1555)

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