

Area Activities Guide

Things to Do – We'll start the list with a link to VisitBenzie.com that will give a pretty comprehensive list of things to see and do in Benzie County. We've also provided a partial list below by category. You won't be able to do it all in one trip...that's why people come back again and again!

Bike and canoe/kayak rentals – If you want to play outside, there are some local businesses that will set you right up! [Crystal Lake Adventure Sports](#) in downtown Frankfort and Beulah; [Beachnut Surf Shop](#) in Frankfort and [Conundrum Café](#) in Elberta.

Biking/Walking – Access the [Betsie Valley Trail](#) is just steps from your door at Harbor Lights Resort. If you're feeling ambitious, tackle the entire 22-mile trek from Frankfort to Thompsonville.

Birding - Benzie County is an ideal place for bird enthusiasts. With its rolling hills covered by forests and fields, and interspersed with numerous lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, marshes, and a long coastline along Lake Michigan, Benzie County is ideally situated for spring and fall migrants. Go to VisitBenzie.com for more information.

Boat rentals – For some fun on the water, [MacDonald Marine](#) offers pontoon boat, jet boat and ski boat rentals. [Crystal Lake Marina](#) has over a dozen boats, pontoons and personal watercraft available for rent during the summer season on Crystal Lake.

Canoeing/Kayaking – Whether you want a calm ride suitable for the whole family or a wet and wild water trip for the more experienced canoeist or kayaker, Go to VisitBenzie.com for a complete list of options.

Casinos – Try your luck at the blackjack table or slot machines at one of the nearby casinos. We are 40 minutes from [Little River Casino](#) in Manistee and about an hour from [Turtle Creek Casino](#) in Traverse City and [Leelanau Sands Casino](#) near Suttons Bay.

Fall color tours – We think fall might just be the most spectacular season in Northern Michigan. There are many tours you can take all over the state, but don't miss this region! And because of our proximity to the Lake, our colors will generally extend later into October. Go to VisitBenzie.com for information on fall,

Farmer's Markets – Featuring local produce and crafts such as organic salads, fruits, vegetables, maple syrup, cherries, honey, herbal soaps and skin care products. Frankfort's Farmer's Market is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting the 2nd Saturday in May through the 2nd Saturday in October. Elberta's Farmer's Market is open every Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to noon starting the 3rd Thursday in May through August, and then every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon through mid October.

Festivals & Events – Visit the [Frankfort-Elberta Area Chamber of Commerce's](#) website for what's happening in Frankfort and Elberta and [VisitBenzie.com](#) for an expanded view of the county events year-round.

Fishing/Charter Fishing – You can fish right off of the Frankfort pier or enjoy a day of fishing on one of the many area charter boats. Go to [VisitBenzie.com](#) for more information.

Golf Courses – We are 20 minutes from [Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club](#), the #1 rated public golf course in Michigan, and only a short distance from many other public courses in the area including [Bear Lake County Highlands](#), [Champion Hill](#), [Chestnut Hills](#), [Crystal Lake Golf Club](#), [Crystal Mountain Resort](#), [The Heathlands](#), [Mistwood](#), and [Pinecroft](#).

Gwen Frostic – World-renowned nature artist [Gwen Frostic](#) was a Northern Michigan treasure. Although this iconic artist is no longer with us, her studio and printing press is still a favorite attraction and area landmark. A variety of items featuring her handcrafted block prints are available including stationary, postcards, books and framed art.

Horseback Riding – If you're ready to ride, we're just 30 minutes from [Rockin' R Ranch](#) in Bear Lake.

Lighthouses – The Frankfort North Breakwater Lighthouse is in view from our resort and the historic [Point Betsie Lighthouse](#) is only minutes away by car. For information on other lighthouses along the Lake Michigan shoreline, click [here](#).

Miniature Golf – There are two locations nearby: Crystal Falls Golf in Benzonia and the Dairy King in Beulah.

Moped Rentals – Available at [Bayside Cycles](#) on Main St. in Frankfort.

Movie Theatres – Check out our local [Garden Theatre](#) or nearby [Cherry Bowl Drive-In Theatre](#) for first-run movies all summer long.

Museums – Want to learn a little more about the area? We are eight minutes from the [Benzie Area Historical Museum](#) or 30 minutes from the [Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum](#), which is located within the [Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore](#).

Performing Arts – We are only 35 minutes from [Interlochen Center for the Arts](#), which features more than 600 events each year presented by the students and faculty, as well as entertainment stars representing every musical style.

Sand Dunes – We're only about 30 minutes from [Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore](#) where you can challenge yourself by climbing the dunes. Make it to the top and enjoy the reward of breathtaking views of Lake Michigan. Or if you're with little ones, just run and play in the sand! (For spectacular views of Lake Michigan without all the hard work of climbing the dunes, take the scenic drive through Sleeping Bear Dunes.)

Shopping – We are within walking distance of many unique shops in charming downtown Frankfort. Also check out downtown Beulah for an Up-North shopping experience.

Skiing – Check out the #1 Ski Resort in the Midwest, [Crystal Mountain Resort](#), featuring 58 downhill ski slopes and 30+ kilometers of cross-country ski trails.

Snowmobiling – Enjoy over 135 miles of groomed trails and challenging terrain through beautiful Benzie County and beyond. Click here for a [Northwest Michigan area snowmobile map](#). Also go to [VisitBenzie.com](#) for more snowmobiling and winter information.

Spas – Enjoy a facial or a massage, or maybe both, at [A Shear Class Experience Salon & Day Spa](#). The spa offers a variety of pampering treatments. You can book an hour or an entire afternoon of relaxation. Also nearby is [Crystal Mountain Resort Spa](#).

Wineries – Northern Michigan produces many wonderful wines. Take a scenic drive up the Leelanau Peninsula or Old Mission Peninsula and visit several wineries. [Click here](#) for a listing of all the area wineries. Also check out [St. Ambrose Cellars](#) right here in Benzie County!