

# Fun in Detroit

## Educational

- **Belle Isle Nature Center**

176 Lakeside Dr., Detroit, MI 48207

<https://belleislenaturecenter.detroitzoo.org/>

*Located on the island of Belle Isle (a state park) on the Detroit River is the Belle Isle Nature Center (BINC). The BINC is “committed to increasing environmental awareness by providing education programs to the community, students, and teachers that address conservation, water quality and protection, preserving nature, tracking and elimination invasive flora and fauna species, and cleaning up the community.” The BINC allows you to get up close and personal to a beehive, watch the migration of migratory birds (seasonal), view native fish in the Belle Isle Aquarium, and observe fallow deer migrate through the Deer Encounter. Belle Isle also has great places to hike and view indigenous flora and fauna.*

Admission: included in the admission to Belle Isle State Park (\$10 per vehicle)

- **Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**

315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit, MI 48201

<https://www.thewright.org/>

*Founded in 1865, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History’s mission, “is to open minds and change lives through the exploration and celebration of African American history and culture.” Their vision, “is of a world in which the adversity and achievement of African American history inspire everyone toward greater understanding, acceptance, and unity.” Their exhibits feature artifacts and archival materials from various civil rights activities, past and present, and art from local and international artist from the past and present.*

Admission: \$10 – adults, \$7 – seniors (62+) and youth (3-12)

- **Detroit Historical Museum**

5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202

<https://detroithistorical.org/>

*Dating back to 1982, the Detroit Historical Society has been archiving the history of Detroit. The Detroit Historical Museum chronicles Detroit’s history from its beginning in 1701 to present day. Known as the home of Motown, the Motor City, and Hockeytown, the Detroit Historical Museum shows the struggles of the city and the comeback happening today.*

Admission: \$10 – adults; \$8 – seniors, students, active military, and first responders (ID required); \$6 – children

- **Detroit Institute of Arts**

5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202; 313-833-7900; <https://www.dia.org/>

*Founded in 1855, the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) has been a staple in Detroit. It is considered one of the top ten art museums in the country, housing nearly 70,000 works. Some of the biggest acquisitions are Diego Rivera’s “Detroit Industry” fresco cycle and Vincent van Gogh’s “Self-Portrait.” The DIA is known for its diverse collections from many cultures: African, Asian, Native American, Oceanic, Islamic, and various ancient cultures.*

Admission: \$14 – adults, \$9 – seniors, \$8 – college students (with ID), \$6 – children (6-17)

- **Ford Piquette Avenue Plant**

461 Piquette Ave., Detroit, MI 48202

<https://www.fordpiquetteplant.org/>

*Want to see where the Ford “Model T” started? Head down to Piquette Ave. for a tour!*

Admission: \$15 – adults, \$10 – seniors (65+), \$10 – veterans and students (with ID), \$5 – youth (5-17)

Group Admission (10+ people): \$10 per person

- Fort Wayne Detroit**  
 6325 W. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48209  
<https://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/>  
*Completed in 1851, Fort Wayne was a critical defense point for Michigan while Britain tried to spread its territory into Canada following the War of 1812. Fort Wayne was a primary induction center for Michigan troops entering battle in every U.S. conflict from the Civil War to Vietnam.*  
 Admission: free, guiding walking tours are Saturday and Sunday at 11am and 2pm and cost \$5 per person
- Michigan Science Center**  
 5020 John R. St., Detroit, MI 48202  
<https://www.mi-sci.org/>  
*Want to get your science game on? Check out the Michigan Science Center!*  
 Admission:
- Motown Museum (Hitsville U.S.A.)**  
 2648 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48208  
<https://www.motownmuseum.org/>  
*Motown Sound! Berry Gordy! If these phrases sound familiar, you will enjoy his Detroit home. The Motown Museum is where Berry Gordy lived and recorded hits! Stop in and walk down memory lane while learning about the history of Motown!*  
 Admission: \$15 – adults, \$10 – seniors (62+) and youth (5-17)  
 Group Admission (20+ people): \$13 – adults, \$8 – seniors (62+) and youth (5-17)
- Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit**  
 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201  
<https://mocadetroit.org/>  
*Started in 1995 the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit's (MOCAD) mission "is where adventurous minds encounter the best in contemporary visual, literary, music, and performing arts. A responsive center for diverse audiences, MOCAD presents art that contextualizes, interprets, educates, and expands culture, pushing us to the edge of contemporary experience."*  
 Admission: suggested donation of \$5 per person
- Outdoor Adventure Center**  
 1801 Atwater St., Detroit, MI 48207  
<https://www.michigan.gov/oac/>  
*The Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) gives you a chance to get a taste of the Michigan outdoors without leaving the city of Detroit. At the OAC, you can understand how the Department of Nature Resources manages all of Michigan's state parks, forests, wildlife, and fish. You can hop on a real airplane and get your hands on a number of activities as you learn about the state of Michigan.*  
 Admission: \$5 – adults (13-61), \$3 – seniors (62+) and youth (2-12)
- Preservation Detroit**  
<https://preservationdetroit.org/>  
*If you really want to see Detroit, new and old, take a walking tour to see the architecture in Downtown, Midtown/Cultural Center, and Eastern Market. You can also learn about their goal for the preservation of Detroit.*  
 Price varies by tour
- Wayne State University Planetarium**  
 4841 Cass Ave. Room 0209, Detroit, MI 48202  
<https://planetarium.wayne.edu/>  
*Looking for a good planetarium show? Stop by the Wayne State University's Planetarium for free public shows.*

## Entertainment

- **Detroit Opera House**  
1526 Broadway, Detroit, MI 48226  
<https://michiganopera.org/>  
*One of the largest stages in Detroit, this 2,700-set venue is a popular location for touring shows, as well as being the home of the Detroit Opera.*
- **Detroit Public Theatre**  
3711 Woodward, Ave., Detroit, MI 48201  
<http://www.detroitpublictheatre.org/>  
*The Detroit Public Theatre offers the experience of new plays that “illuminate the thrills, joys, and challenges of our shared human experience.” It is also the home-base for the amazing Shakespeare in Prison, which brings the works of William Shakespeare to female inmates.*
- **Detroit Repertory Theatre**  
13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit, MI 48238  
<http://www.detroitreptheatre.com/>  
*Founded in 1957, the Detroit Repertory Theatre seats 194 patrons.*
- **Detroit Symphony Orchestra**  
3711 Woodward Av., Detroit, MI 48201  
<https://www.dso.org/>  
*One of Detroit’s socialite locals, the 2,014-seat venue of Orchestra Hall is the center of classical music in the Detroit area.*
- **Fisher Theatre**  
3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202  
<https://www.broadwayindetroit.com/plan-your-visit/fisher-theatre>  
*One of the smaller venues in Detroit, the Fisher Theatre seats 2,089 patrons and mostly accommodates touring shows. It is housed in the beautiful Fisher Building.*
- **Fox Theatre**  
2211 Woodward, Ave., Detroit, MI 48201  
<http://foxtheatredetroit.net/>  
*The largest theater in Detroit, the Fox Theatre seats 5,174 patrons and is mainly a touring venue.*
- **Majestic Theatre**  
4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201  
<https://www.majesticdetroit.com/>  
*The Majestic Theatre is one of the most premier venues for listening to live music.*
- **Wayne State University Department of Theatre and Dance**  
<http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu/>  
*With multiple venues and styles, check out the Wayne State University Department of Theatre and Dance to find something for the whole family!*

## Seasonal Events

- **America's Thanksgiving Day Parade**  
Along Woodward Ave.  
<https://theparade.org/americas-thanksgiving-parade/parade-info/>  
*Cruising along Woodward Ave. and a treat for anyone, America's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a tradition and spectacle for many Detroiters!*
- **Dally in the Alley**  
<https://dallyinthealley.com/>  
*Located mainly on the streets of Forest Ave. and Hancock St., Dally in the Alley is Detroit's largest annual community festival. It festival includes a variety of music, arts, performances, and food. This festival usually happens the first Saturday after Labor Day.*
- **Detroit Grand Prix**  
Belle Isle  
<https://detroitgp.com/>  
*If you're a car racing junkie, the Detroit Grand Prix is for you! Usually held in June, this is a race you don't want to miss!*
- **Detroit Jazz Festival**  
Hart Plaza and Campus Martius  
<https://www.detroitjazzfest.org/>  
*If you want to get your groove on, the Detroit Jazz Festival is for you! Usually held in late August or early September, it's a great place to enjoy some jazz music!*
- **Detroit Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
Campus Martius  
<https://www.everfest.com/e/detroit-tree-lighting-ceremony-detroit-mi>  
*If you're in Detroit near Thanksgiving, be sure to check out the Detroit Tree Lighting Ceremony. Kick off the Christmas season in Detroit with ice skating at Campus Martius, performances, and, of course, the tree lighting!*
- **Ford Fireworks**  
Downtown Detroit along the Detroit River  
<https://visitdetroit.com/event/ford-fireworks/>  
*If you find yourself in Detroit around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, you much head down to the Detroit River for the annual Ford Fireworks. A spectacle and tradition for everyone!*
- **Movement Electronic Music Festival**  
Hart Plaza  
<https://www.movement.us/>  
*For a different sound, try the Movement Electronic Music Festival in Hart Plaza. The festival is usually around late May and is totally devoted to electronic dance music.*
- **North American International Auto Show**  
Cobo Center, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226  
<https://naias.com/>  
*Started in 1907 as the Detroit Area Dealer Association, the North American International Auto Show is world renowned and is a mecca for automobile enthusiasts around the world. This fun, innovative, and awe-inspiring event takes place in June.*

## Shopping

- **Eastern Market**

<https://www.easternmarket.org/>

*Encompassing nearly a half square mile off Fisher Freeway and I-75, the Eastern Market has been around since the 1800s. Open everyday Tuesday in the summer and every Saturday year round, the Eastern Market is a great place for fresh food and homemade goods. The Eastern Market is also a great place to find incredible murals and street art.*

- **Henry the Hatter**

2472 Riopelle, Detroit, MI 48207

<https://www.henrythehatterdetroit.com/>

*With a history dating back to 1893, Henry the Hatter is the oldest hat store in the United States. Whether you're due for a fancy new hat or you want to see some nice pieces of art, check out Henry's!*

- **John K. King Used & Rare Books**

901 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226

<https://www.johnkingbooksdetroit.com/>

*It's the largest used and rare bookstore in Michigan! Dating back to the 1970s, John K. King is a hub for bibliophiles and book enthusiasts alike. With four floors filled with books of every genre, you can get lost in all the wonder, history, and adventure at your fingertips!*

- **Pewabic Pottery**

10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI 48214

<https://www.pewabic.org/>

*Founded in 1903 by Mary Chase Perry Stratton, pewabic pottery changed the style of contemporary pottery with her unique glazing technique. All the pottery is made by hand. Pewabic Pottery also offers guided tours and demonstrations.*

- **Shinola**

441 W. Canfield, Detroit, MI 48201

<https://www.shinola.com/>

*Founded in 2011, Shinola is the premier watch, leather, and bicycle store in Detroit. All their Shinola's products are made by hand, in house. While their products are a bit pricey, they are beautiful and it's a great place to browse!*

## Sights

- **Campus Martius Park**  
800 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48226  
<http://downtowndetroitparks.com/parks/Campus-Martius>  
*Encompassing nearly three city blocks, Campus Martius is in the immediate downtown community and surrounded by wonderful restaurants. It is a great place to city and enjoy the beauty of downtown Detroit, the fountain, landscaping, and gardens. The park also has some historical points of interest and often has free events and programs.*
- **Detroit Riverfront**  
<https://detroitriverfront.org/>  
*From Campus Martius you can walk southeast on Woodward for about three blocks to Hart Plaza and the Detroit Riverfront. Along the way, you can see the Spirit of Detroit, seasonal activities, the “fist” (a tribute to Joe Lewis), artwork, and historical monuments. The Riverfront is nearly five miles along the Detroit River with a beautiful view of Windsor across the river.*
- **Detroit People Mover**  
<https://www.thepeplemover.com/>  
*Moving around nearly three miles of track in downtown Detroit, the People Mover is a conventional form of transportation for getting around all the top Detroit locations. It costs \$.75 to ride with thirteen different stops.*
- **Fisher Building**  
3011 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48202  
<https://thefisherbuilding.com/>  
*The Fisher Building is one of the oldest, and most beautiful, buildings in Detroit. The building currently houses the Fisher Theatre and offices for the Detroit public schools, Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, Children’s Hospital of Michigan Foundation, and the City Bakery. Tours are available!*
- **The QLine**  
<https://qlinedetroit.com/>  
*Completed in May 2017, the QLine is the newest form of transportation in downtown Detroit. It runs from Grand Blvd. to Congress St. with twenty stops. A three-hours pass is \$1.50 or a day pass is \$3.*
- **Spirit of Detroit**  
2 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48226  
<https://detroithistorical.org/learn/encyclopedia-of-detroit/spirit-detroit>  
*If you ask someone what icon they think represents the city of Detroit the first thing to come to mind is the Spirit of Detroit. Commissioned in 1955, the 26-foot statue was the largest bronze statue since the Renaissance. The statue is often dressed up depending on the holiday, occasion, or sporting event.*

## Sports

- **Detroit Lions – Football**

Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit, MI 48226

<https://www.fordfield.com/>

*Originally the Portsmouth Spartans in Portsmouth, OH, the team was relocated to Detroit in 1934. The Lions won four national championships but have not won or played in a Superbowl.*

- **Detroit Pistons – Basketball**

Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201

<https://www.nba.com/pistons/>

*The Pistons were originally the Fort Wayne (Zollner) Pistons in Fort Wayne, IN started in 1941. The team was moved to Detroit in 1957. While in Detroit they have won three NBA championships, seven conference titles, and nine division titles.*

- **Detroit Redwings – Hockey**

Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201

<https://www.nhl.com/redwings>

*Founded as the Detroit Cougars in 1926, then the Falcons in 1931, the hockey team finally became the Redwings in 1933. To date, they have won the most Stanley Cup championships in the NHL, six conference championships, nineteen division championships, and six President's Trophies.*

- **Detroit Tigers – Baseball**

Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201

<https://www.mlb.com/tigers>

*Founded in 1901, the Detroit Tigers are native to Detroit. They have won four World Series titles, eleven American League Pennants, and seven division titles.*