



**The Stoner's
Travel Guide to
Upper Michigan**

by Gene Check

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Written by

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Cover Design by Jessica Struzik

First Edition Printed June 2022

ISBN: 979-8-9865170-0-1 Softcover

ISBN: 979-8-9865170-1-8 Hardcover

Printed in the USA

For More Info: Yoopertopia.com

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Introduction

Ok, one of the first questions I usually get is, why call it The Stoners Travel Guide to Upper Michigan, as opposed to just a regular Travel Guide?

Sure, I do have a list of dispensaries, head shops, grow shops, etc., but this info is easy to find on the internet. In the dispensary chapter and on my website, Yoopertopia.com, I give you the best links to find these places. It's really best to check there anyway because the legal cannabis industry is changing so fast in the UP, with new dispensaries and pot related businesses always popping up.

The real reason I wrote this book is to expose the Cannabis crowd to all the fantastic things the UP has to offer, like hundreds of miles of Great Lakes beaches, 14 wilderness areas, hundreds of waterfalls, a huge biking scene, sled dogs and Luge rides, world class Inland and Great Lakes fishing, Northern Lights, Camping off the charts (including FREE camping), reasonable motels, and a seemingly endless supply of quirky natural and man-made attractions.

It seems to me that Cannabis consumers are generally more open to new experiences, and are often attracted to the offbeat humorous side of life. Stoners tend to like attractions that are funny, quirky, musical, interactive, food related, exciting, mellow, oddball, and fun. It helps if the activity has some element of spontaneity.

The beautiful wonders of nature have a special appeal for most tokers, and there is no shortage of natural beauty in Upper Michigan. Stoners seem to be more flexible in their travels and more willing to go with the flow rather than needing to follow a rigid schedule. The stereotypical formal tourist attractions of years ago are not what the Pot crowd is looking for. Sitting on a tourist, boat, bus or mine car loaded with square tourists getting a lame narration from a tourist guide probably won't cut it.

One common phenomenon with newcomers is that they drive frantically from one notable UP destination to the next. In the process they drive by a lot of subtle smaller attractions like Nature areas and small hiking trails, etc. Although I encourage people to explore the

endless backroads and out of the way areas, I also realize the reality is that most people are going to hit the most marquee locations first. It will probably take several visits before you really start to appreciate this more subtle and random form of vacationing.

One of the great beauties of the UP is that there is a wealth of public lands of one kind or another. This provides seemingly endless opportunities for this kind of exploring without bothering anyone. Can you imagine living here as a teenager, with limitless areas to party?

Upper Michigan is really one of the most beautiful lesser traveled areas in the lower 48 States. Somehow it seems to fall off many people's radar screens when thinking of places to visit. Isle Royale, the large National Park Island in Lake Superior, has historically been the least visited National Park in the Continental U.S.

Many of the folks coming from the south get distracted in Northern Minnesota or Wisconsin and never make it to the U.P. This wild treasure of diverse beauty is nestled among several Great Lakes and huge areas of publicly accessible land. I truly feel this pristine area is poised to become one of the next Stoner Meccas



Old Root Cellar in the Middle of Nowhere