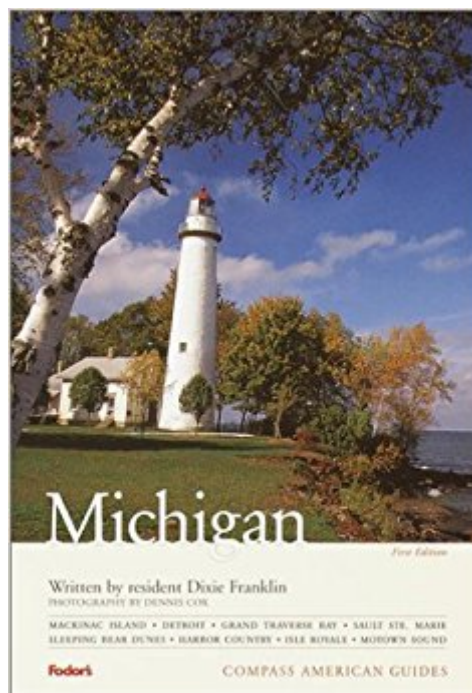




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Compass American Guides: Michigan, 1st Edition (Full-color Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Created by local writers and photographers, Compass American Guides are the ultimate insider's guides, providing in-depth coverage of the history, culture and character of America's most spectacular destinations. Covering everything there is to see and do as well as choice lodging and dining, these gorgeous full-color guides are perfect for new and longtime residents as well as vacationers who want a deep understanding of the region they're visiting. ? Outstanding color photography, plus a wealth of archival images ? Topical essays and literary extracts ? Detailed color maps ? Great ideas for things to see and do ? Capsule reviews of hotels and restaurants

Book Information

Series: Full-color Travel Guide (Book 1)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Compass America Guides (May 8, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 067900534X

ISBN-13: 978-0679005346

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,693,985 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 inÂ Books > Travel > United States > Michigan > General #646 inÂ Books > Travel > Mexico > General #1476 inÂ Books > Travel > United States > Midwest

Customer Reviews

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OVERVIEWMichigan is more than cars? The north is a landscape of lakes too wide to see across, mossy paths winding through deep forest, gurgling streams rippling fresh and clean over their

pebbled beds, and waterfalls plunging headlong down rocky cliffs. Flat, fertile farmland rolls through the southeast, broken by the steel and concrete of industrial centers -- especially Flint, Battle Creek, Lansing, and Grand Rapids. Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan, is arguably one of the liveliest towns in the state. And finally, dominating the eastern edge of the state, Detroit is an economic powerhouse, with global industrial reach. Detroit, Motor City

Appropriately, there's a steady roar of honking horns, screeching brakes, and the slamming of limousine doors in the city that put our nation -- and, for that matter, the world -- on wheels. Greater Detroit boasts the "high" culture of museums, opera, orchestras; a setting that enables the simple pleasures of riverfront dining, strolls through woodland parks, and dancing at outdoor festivals; and a fascinating, sometimes turbulent industrial history that resulted in palatial mansions, crowded ethnic enclaves -- even the chart-breaking sounds of Motown.

Southeast

Southeastern Michigan is mostly farmland and is flat as a pancake -- until you get to the Irish Hills. Formed by the eroded deposits of glacial moraines, these rolling hills are distinctive for their oak openings and lakes. Lansing, the state capital, rests at the center of this largely rural land.

Ann Arbor

A quintessential college town, Ann Arbor entertains as well as it educates. Museums, cinemas, and a plethora of theaters vie with Kerrytown restaurants and U of M football and basketball for the visitor's attention. Galleries and funky shops abound, and, with one of the highest concentration of used and rare bookshops in the United States, Ann Arbor is a mecca for book lovers.

The Thumb

Here, big cities give way to wide-open farmland, punctuated with silos, cider mills, and small towns. From the end of the breakwater at Port Austin, you can watch the sun rise over Lake Huron and return in the evening for the sunset over Saginaw Bay.

Northwest & Mackinac Island

This triangle of Michigan contains some of the best beaches, best hiking trails, best boating and canoeing opportunities, plus some of the most fascinating historic sites in the country. Take the ferry out to the Maitou Islands; or visit Mackinac Island, itself a living museum.

Upper Peninsula

Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior wrap their shores around the Upper Peninsula. Country roads lead to parks, beaches, waterfalls, and trails; roadside restaurants, often furnished with communal tables, offer hikers the chance to take a satisfying coffee break: a fine cup of java and, if you're in the mood, a friendly conversation with the local gentry. The wilderness here is unforgettable, especially on Isle Royale, with its ancient drama of wolf and moose.

These folks at Compass American have put together a great, readable book about a diverse state. Kudos to contributing writer Dan Stivers for his offbeat, often hilarious introduction to my eclectic hometown of Ann Arbor (ex: WEATHER: Winters can live up to Michigan's former motto of Water

Winter Wonderland, or be marked by week after week of single-digits and howling winds--a sunless horror, devoid of joy or hope.). The best book on Michigan I've yet to read, and I've read a few -

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