Days out

1 A day in Cassopolis and Dowagiac

Best on a Tuesday or Friday, when both Dowagiac museums are open; the log cabin keeps summer hours.

- **Morning** Walk old Broadway in Cassopolis, eleven stops with the 1860 plan underfoot.
- **Morning** The Local History Branch, in the 1909 Carnegie library: county histories, maps and family files (Mon–Thu).
- **Morning** The Pioneer Log Cabin Museum on South Broadway, built in 1923 (open through the season; check its website).
- **Lunch** Holden Green Tavern, in the old post office storefront on Broadway.
- **Afternoon** Drive about 11 miles to Dowagiac: the Dowagiac Area History Museum, for the Round Oak stove story.
- **Afternoon** Walk Front Street, thirteen stops, with the Heddon Museum's lures on the way (Tue and Fri; call ahead).
- **Treat** A soda at Caruso's, on Front Street since 1922.
- **Supper** The Wounded Minnow, in the 1913 Elks Temple, or the Old Tavern Inn at Sumnerville, opened in 1835.

2 A research day for family historians

Monday to Thursday, when the Local History Branch is open. Bring names, dates and places, a notebook and a pencil.

- **Morning** The Local History Branch, in the 1909 Carnegie library: county histories, old directories, maps and family files. Ask at the desk where to begin.
- **Late morning** The Cass County Clerk/Register office, upstairs in the old courthouse at 120 N. Broadway, for birth, death and marriage records and the deed books. Call ahead (269-445-4464) to ask what you can see in person.
- **Lunch** Holden Green Tavern, two doors down Broadway in the old post office.
- **Afternoon** Prospect Hill Cemetery, the village cemetery on Disbrow Street, with burials going back to the 1830s. Take our guide to reading old gravestones.
- **Before you go home** Stuck on a name? Write down what you found and where, and bring us your mystery.

3 Niles and the river

A half day; the Fort St. Joseph Museum is open Wednesday to Saturday.

- **Morning** The Fort St. Joseph Museum and the Niles History Center.
- **Morning** The Four Flags City sites around downtown, mostly seen from outside.
- **Lunch** The Old Tavern Inn at Sumnerville, opened in 1835 as a stagecoach stop.
- **Stay** The Morris Estate, a riverside estate kept as a bed and breakfast.

More days

4 A day that costs nothing

Wednesday to Friday, when both free museums are open. The two walks are free at any hour.

- **Morning** Walk old Broadway in Cassopolis.
- **Late morning** The Dowagiac Area History Museum: admission is free.
- **Afternoon** Walk Front Street in Dowagiac.
- **Afternoon** The Fort St. Joseph Museum in Niles, also free.
- **Worth the money** If you spend a little, spend it on a soda at Caruso's.

5 A rainy day in South Bend

Any day of the week: the two museums sit side by side on one campus, open Monday to Saturday 10–5 and Sunday 12–5.

- **Morning** The Studebaker National Museum: wagons, carriages and cars from the company that began in a South Bend blacksmith shop.
- **Lunch** Sunny Italy Cafe, South Bend's oldest Italian restaurant, opened in 1926.
- **Afternoon** The History Museum next door, with the Oliver Mansion on its campus.
- **Supper** Café Navarre, in a restored bank building at the old center of downtown.
- **Stay** The Oliver Inn, the 1886 house James Oliver built for his daughter.

6 A fall drive to the orchards

Late September to late October; the color is usually best around the middle of October. Best Wednesday to Saturday, when the museums are open.

- **Morning** Start in Niles at the Fort St. Joseph Museum.
- **Lunch** Follow the river north to Buchanan: Thistledown & Row, with house-made ciders in the 1884 Redden Building.
- **Afternoon** The History Center at Courthouse Square in Berrien Springs (Wed–Sun; closed in winter).
- **Afternoon** Jollay Orchards near Coloma, farmed by one family since 1857: cider and doughnuts at the fall market.
- **Supper** Blackbird Waterhouse near Coloma, a roadhouse since the late 1920s.

POCKET GUIDE

Project Scroll

Days out in the St. Joseph River valley: museums, walks, old taverns and orchards, from Kalamazoo to the lakeshore and into northern Indiana.

Every clue is true.

projectscroll.com/visit

Open any day in Google Maps, see what is open today, or build your own day at projectscroll.com/visit. Hours change: check each place before you go.

The valley



Numbers mark where each day begins. County lines: US Census Bureau. Rivers: USGS.

Good to know

- **Check before you go.** Many museums are run by volunteers and open a few days a week, some only in summer.
- **Mind the clock.** La Porte County, Indiana, including La Porte and Michigan City, keeps Central time.
- **Amish country.** Many businesses close on Sundays. Slow down and pass buggies wide.
- **Be a good guest.** Look from the sidewalk; never go onto private property without leave.

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Further afield

7 A weekend in the fruit belt

Blossom time from late April, blueberries in July, apples and cider in the fall.

- **Saturday** Jollay Orchards near Coloma, farmed by the same family since 1857 (fall market).
- **Saturday** The Morton House Museum in Benton Harbor (Wed and Sat 11–2). On a weekday, the North Berrien Historical Museum in Coloma instead.
- **Saturday** The St. Joseph pier lights; inner tours on summer Saturdays, weather permitting.
- **Supper** Grande Mere Inn at Stevensville.
- **Sunday** The Region of Three Oaks Museum (spring to October, Fri–Sun afternoons).
- **Stay** The Inn at Union Pier or Gordon Beach Inn, near the lake.

8 Elkhart County and the Amish country

Best Tuesday to Saturday, when all three are open; many businesses close on Sundays. Mind the buggies.

- **Morning** Bonneyville Mill near Bristol, the old grist mill (mid-April to mid-November, Tue–Sun).
- **Morning** The Elkhart County Historical Museum in Bristol (Tue–Sat).
- **Lunch** Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, or the Blue Gate in Shipshewana.
- **Afternoon** Menno-Hof in Shipshewana (Mon–Sat 10–5).
- **Afternoon** Coppes Commons in Nappanee, the old kitchen-cabinet factory.
- **Stay** Market St. Manor in Nappanee.

9 Kalamazoo and the Gilmore

A full day, Monday to Thursday, when the Kellogg Manor House is open; the Gilmore keeps longer hours from April to November.

- **Morning** The Gilmore Car Museum at Hickory Corners.
- **Lunch** George & Sally's Blue Moon Diner, a 1941 diner on the Gilmore grounds.
- **Afternoon** The W.K. Kellogg Manor House (Mon–Thu; call ahead).
- **Supper** Bell's Eccentric Café in Kalamazoo.
- **Stay** Henderson Castle or The Kalamazoo House.

Two walks

Old Broadway, Cassopolis

1. Site of the first courthouse
2. Local History Branch (Carnegie Library)
3. Cass County Historic Courthouse
4. "The Fort": the county office building
5. The Old Public Square (Broadway & State)
6. The old courthouse's second life
7. The bank corner
8. United Presbyterian Church
9. The old post office storefront
10. The Sinclair Station
11. Pioneer Log Cabin Museum

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Front Street, Dowagiac

1. Dowagiac Area History Museum
2. The Heddon Museum
3. The Fair Store block
4. Beckwith Park and the Beckwith Memorial Theatre site
5. Caruso's Candy & Soda Shop
6. Front and Commercial: the brick downtown
7. 1913 Elks Temple (Wounded Minnow Saloon)
8. Moore grocery building
9. Michigan Central Railroad Depot
10. Judd Lumber Company
11. Commercial and Pennsylvania: where the first Round Oak stove stood
12. Dowagiac District Library (Carnegie library)
13. Beckwith Theatre Company (former Methodist church)

projectscroll.com/walk/dowagiac

The walks work on your phone without a signal once opened. Press "I'm here" at each stop for a stamp in your passport.