





Great Lakes Trips

DON'T BE FOOLED BY ALL THE CORN.

The Midwest is more than a flat, endless field. Intrepid road-trippers will find that out as soon as they set wheels on red-cliffed, forest-cloaked Hwy 61 in northern Minnesota; on the dune-backed, lighthouse-dotted thoroughfares of western Michigan; or on the River Road rising and twisting along the Big Muddy.

The Great Lakes themselves are huge, like inland seas. Dairy farms and orchards blanket the region, meaning fresh pie and ice cream await trip-takers. Big cities such as Chicago and Minneapolis rise up and provide awesome doses of culture and entertainment.

And when the Midwest does flatten out? There's always a goofball roadside attraction to revive imaginations.

Lake Michigan A stretch of beach on Michigan's Gold Coast (Trip 21)
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Split Rock Lighthouse (Trip 23)

Classic Trip

20

Route 66 14 Days

America's 'Mother Road' offers a time-warped journey from Chicago to LA. (p267)

21

Michigan's Gold Coast 4 Days

A spin along Lake Michigan's shore features beaches, wineries and island-hopping. (p281)

22

Along the Great River Road 6–7 Days

Trace the Mississippi River through bluff-strewn scenery and retro small towns. (p291)

23

Highway 61 2–3 Days

The Minnesota byway hugs Lake Superior's rugged edge, passing waterfalls and moose. (p301)



DON'T MISS

Pie

The region's prolific orchards result in flaky, scrumptious desserts at hot spots such as Crane's Pie Pantry and Betty's Pies. Try them out on Trips [21](#) [23](#)

Hemingway Haunts

Literary buffs can find the places Papa wrote about and the bars where he tossed back drinks. Retrace the writer's steps on Trip [21](#)

Harbor View Cafe

It's in the middle of nowhere, but foodies have been trekking to check out the riverside cafe's chalkboard menu for 30-plus years. Make a visit on Trip [22](#)

Judge CR Magney State Park

You've never seen a waterfall like Devil's Kettle, where half the flow disappears down a hole. See it for yourself on Trip [23](#)

Cozy Dog Drive In

Not only is the eatery crammed with Route 66 relics, it's the mythic birthplace of the corn dog. Make the stop on Trip [20](#)