

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **LUDINGTON CELEBRATES FALL WITH SEASONAL EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS** *Highlights include Ludington Lumber Days and Badger Dockside Events Plus Fall Lodging Specials*

LUDINGTON, Mich. – Sept. 10, 2026 – As September ushers in shorter days and cooler temperatures, the Ludington area is preparing for a busy fall season of events headlined by the second annual Ludington Lumber Days, new fall dockside events on the S.S. *Badger*, plus favorite traditions like Trick-or-Treat at Historic White Pine Village. Hotels are also running fall specials with 50 percent off a second-night stay.

“Autumn is a favorite season to discover Ludington, a beautiful time of year that allows you to see the sights at a slower pace,” said Brandy Miller, executive director of the [Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau](#). “Whether you check out an autumn-themed event, book a fall lodging special or just enjoy Mason County’s stunning colors, there are many ways to enjoy a fall getaway in Ludington.”

#### **Ludington Lumber Days**

Back by popular demand after its debut in 2025, [Ludington Lumber Days](#) Oct. 2-4 celebrates Ludington’s lumber heritage that helped build the community with a weekend packed with lumberjack-inspired fun, history, music and adventure for all ages. The schedule includes:

#### ***Friday, Oct. 2***

- **Photo Exhibition and Behind-the-Scenes Tours** – Rose Hawley Archives, 130 E. Ludington Ave. Learn more about the area’s logging history with a curated display and tour with the Mason County Historical Society. Self-guided photo exhibition 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. for suggested \$5 donation. Behind-the-Scenes Tours are at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. & 3 p.m., \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$9 for youth (4-12); members free.
- **Big Sable Point Lighthouse Tours** – 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Big Sable Point Lighthouse at Ludington State Park, 8800 M-116 (requires Recreation Passport). Visitors can explore the grounds, climb the tower and visit the first floor and gift shop. The walk or bike to the lighthouse is 1.8 miles each way. Cost: \$8 for adults and \$5 for students 17 and under; free for active service and veterans.
- **[Plaidurday Pub Crawl](#)** – 6-9 p.m., downtown. Throw on your flannel and join for a night of craft beer and camaraderie, starting and ending at Ludington Bay Brewing Company. Travel through Ludington’s Outdoor Social District (LOSD) and end at the brewery with live entertainment. \$10 tickets can be purchased online at [Eventbrite](#).

#### ***Saturday, Oct. 3***

- **Lumber Days Workout** – 10-10:45 a.m., Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St., Ludington – Join [HarborFit Studio](#) for a free workout inspired by Ludington’s logging roots – complete with log rolls, ax swings, stump jumps, and more. Sign up with [Harborfit Studio](#) on the MindBody app.
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- **Logging Encampment** – 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Historic White Pine Village, 1687 S. Lakeshore Dr. Witness a logging encampment reenactment and experience the region's logging life firsthand, as costumed educators share the tools of the trade and details of life and culture unique to Michigan's late 1800s frontier. Entrance fee.
- **Lumber Days Beer Garden** – 1-6 p.m., Legacy Plaza, 112 N. James St. – Sponsored by [Jamesport Brewing Company](#) and [Ludington Bay Brewing Company](#), guests can raise a glass while enjoying live music from Joe Stickney and Electric Red and watching live chainsaw carving demonstrations by the "Wood Butcher." (\$29 ticket includes 4 drink tokens and koozie, or pay \$5 to enter.) This family-friendly event also features kids' activities. Tickets [here](#); youth 16 and under are free.
- **Ludington State Park Fall Festival** – 1-5 p.m., Lake Michigan Beach House. Enjoy live music, wagon rides, and cider and donuts at the park. *Free, but a MI Recreation passport is required.*

#### **Sunday, Oct. 4**

- **NEW - Coffee & Cars**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., South James Street. Enjoy cars from the PM Motoring Club, coffee for purchase from Hitch Hiker Coffee and Meraki Coffee and live music.

#### **Badger Dockside Events**

The [S.S. Badger Lake Michigan Carferry](#) is featuring a series of ["dockside" events](#) this fall based on popularity when the series debuted in the spring, along with exclusive Pilot House and Engine Room Tours (already sold out for fall). These after-hours experiences are held at the Badger's Ludington port (701 Maritime Dr.) after the historic ship docks at 7 p.m. from its Lake Michigan crossing.

- **Community Shopping Event** – Sept. 11, 8-10 p.m. This shopping event aboard the S.S. Badger Boatique features light refreshments, discounted items and a drawing for a round-trip ticket.
- **Murder Mystery Nights** – Sept. 12 (Hollywood-themed); Oct. 3 (90s themed), 8-11 p.m. Guests step into a world of suspense where secrets unfold, clues emerge, and everyone has a role in solving the case. Mingle with fellow participants, question suspicious characters and piece together the mystery while enjoying the unique atmosphere. Each event offers its own setting, characters and twists. Whether you dress in theme or simply are ready for a fun night out, Murder Mystery Nights blend storytelling, social interaction and immersive entertainment — perfect for friends, groups, or anyone looking for something out of the ordinary. \$45 ticket; food and drink for purchase. Purchase tickets at [ssbadger.com/dockside-events](#).
- **Open Boat Nights** – Sept. 18 and Oct. 9, 8-11 p.m. Enjoy a relaxed evening aboard the Badger dockside! Guests can come aboard and explore the passenger areas and outer decks at their own pace or enjoy live music in the Cabana Room. The gift shop, concessions and full-service bars are open, offering snacks, beverages, and souvenirs for purchase. \$10 tickets are available at the [Dockside Events](#) page or by calling [1-800-841-4243](tel:1-800-841-4243). Tickets can also be purchased dockside.

#### **Other Fall Events**

Mason County is hosting other events this fall (*in Ludington unless otherwise noted*):

- [Fall Festival at Lewis Adventure Farm and Zoo](#) – Sept. 11 - Nov. 1, Wednesdays - Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Lewis Adventure Farm, 4180 West M-20, New Era. Embark on an unforgettable Fall adventure. Snap the perfect pic in the Pumpkin House, savor tasty treats, meet exotic animals, and explore 46+ farm attractions. Entrance fee.
- [The Oak Ridge Boys](#), Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m., STIX Ludington, 1963 N Lakeshore Dr. With 37 Top 20 country hits, twelve gold, three platinum, and one double-platinum album, The Oak Ridge Boys have long made their mark in every facet of the gospel, pop, and country music industry.
- [Jamesport Brewing Harvest Party](#), Sept. 19, 4-7 p.m. in the JBC Portside Garden. Enjoy live music by Groovix Cube plus craft vendors and activities, along with the release of Jamesport's Pumpkin Wheat Ale.
- [MANHATTAN SHORT Film Festival](#), Sept. 24 at 6 p.m., Sept. 30 at 3 p.m. and Oct. 1 at noon; Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. This festival features 10 films on screens across the world in a one-week period, with the Best Film and Best Actor awards determined by ballots cast by audiences at each venue. \$10 at the door or at [ludingtonartscenter.org](http://ludingtonartscenter.org).
- [Stop Motion Animation Festival](#), Sept. 26, 6 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. LACA's first stop motion animation festival will feature all styles (e.g., claymation, pixelation, mixed media) by artists in three age categories (5-9, 10-14 and 15 and up), with the audience members voting for the Viewer's Choice Awards. \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door.
- [Chew on This – An Art Exhibit Celebrating Food & Creativity](#), Oct. 2-31, Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St. This juried, in-person exhibition celebrates food-themed artwork, with artists exploring the creative, cultural, and visual power of food across a range of media.
- [Trick-or-Treat at Historic White Pine Village](#), Oct. 17, 2-5 p.m., Historic White Pine Village. Families can come in costume and enjoy trick-or-treating throughout the Village's historic buildings. This festive fall tradition also marks the final opportunity of the year to visit Historic White Pine Village and the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum before they close for the season. Admission is 50 percent off for guests during the event hours of 2-5 p.m.
- [The Wizard of Oz](#), Oct. 23-25, Oct. 30-Nov. 1 and Nov. 6-8; West Shore Community College Center Stage Theater. Step into a world of wonder with this dazzling stage adaptation inspired by the beloved The Wizard of Oz featuring its iconic songs. Just in time for Halloween, West Shore Community College's Theatre Department will also host special festive events to enhance your visit, making this not just a performance, but a full seasonal celebration.
- [Run For Your Lives 5K/10K](#), Oct. 31, 9-10:30 a.m. at James and Court streets. Packet pickup 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Hoyt's Next Door, 107 W. Ludington Ave. Walkers and runners of all ages can participate in this Halloween day event. Registration includes a race tee and finisher medal. Awards for top male/female in Overall, Masters (40-59), and Grand Masters (60+) and top three in age groups by decade. [5K Race Route](#); [10K Race Route](#). \$30 in advance; \$35 on race day. Student: (19 and under) \$20/\$25 on race day. Purchase [online here](#).
- [LUDRock Presents: Night of Fright 12](#), Oct. 31, 6:30 p.m.-midnight, Ludington Area Center for the Arts. Join Ludington's "biggest and best Halloween event" in a night of rock 'n' roll and Halloween fun for all. Live music by Gina and Jordan starts at 7:30 p.m., followed by The Stinks. Adult beverages and food are

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available for purchase. Sport your best costume for the adults and kids costume contests. Tickets are \$10 (free under 12), and proceeds support the art center.

- **["STORM: Ludington" — A Powerful Great Lakes Concert Experience](#)**, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., Ludington Area Center for the Arts (LACA), 107 S. Harrison St. This one-of-a-kind multimedia experience presented by LACA brings the history of the Great Lakes to life through music, film, storytelling, and firsthand accounts of survival. STORM: Ludington takes audiences beneath Lake Michigan's waters and into the heart of the region's most compelling maritime stories, combining underwater footage, rare interviews, historic photographs, eyewitness testimony, and live music to create an evening that is equal parts concert, documentary and theater. It explores the region's maritime heritage from its lumbering boom to shipwreck discoveries. \$25 in advance at [ludingtonartscenter.org](http://ludingtonartscenter.org), \$30 at the door; LACA members receive a \$5 discount.

### **Fall Lodging Specials**

Visitors who book a stay at five Mason County participating lodging properties through Oct. 29 can get a second night at 50 percent off Sundays through Thursdays. Visitors must mention the deal at the time of booking.

Lodging participants include [Best Western Lakewinds](#), [Comfort Inn](#), [Holiday Inn Express & Suites](#), [The Lamplighter Bed & Breakfast](#) and [Nader's Motel & Suites](#). Visit [pureludington.com/packages](http://pureludington.com/packages).

### **New Businesses**

The Ludington area recently opened the following new businesses, which are open in the fall:

- **AndyS**, 129 W. Ludington Ave. – *Opened August 2026*. This latest business endeavor by the owner of STIX Ludington is a three-story sports bar and entertainment venue in the heart of downtown with 70 TV screens and upscale bar food, featuring a rooftop bar with glass floor, mezzanine for live music, private dining area, and section with golf simulators. [Facebook.com/andysludington](https://www.facebook.com/andysludington)
- **El Lago Mexican Bar & Grill**, 320 S. James St. – *Opened July 2026*. This family-owned restaurant in the former Timbers location serves authentic Mexican food, refreshing drinks, and a welcoming atmosphere. Also features Happy Hour and Taco Tuesday specials. [Facebook](#).
- **The Side Counter Deli**, 222 W. Ludington Ave. – *Opened July 2026*. This small sandwich shop inside the Pier curates sandwiches and wraps using Boar's Head meats and local homemade breads. [Facebook](#)
- **Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton**, 3667 W US-10 in Ludington – *Opened June 2026*. This 59,768 square-foot property is four stories with 101 rooms, featuring an indoor pool and 24-hour fitness center, complimentary hot breakfast, Wi-Fi and free parking (including EV charging). Pets up to 75 pounds are welcome with a \$75 nonrefundable charge. The hotel has an 800-square-foot meeting room accommodating up to 50 people in rounds and 40 people in classroom-style seating. [hilton.com/en/hotels/ldmhxhx-hampton-suites-ludington-michigan](https://hilton.com/en/hotels/ldmhxhx-hampton-suites-ludington-michigan)

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### **ABOUT LUDINGTON**

*On the shores of Lake Michigan with 28 miles of beachfront and water access, Ludington offers a quintessential "Up North" experience close by. Ludington and Mason County deliver the perfect combination of unspoiled natural resources and unrivaled outdoor recreation with quaint, small-town charm – all within easy reach at the intersection of U.S. 31 and U.S. 10. For information on the Ludington area including lodging, events, and other tools to help plan a Ludington getaway, visit [PureLudington.com](http://PureLudington.com), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#); or call (800) 542-4600. Visitors also can download the [2025 Pure Ludington Destination Guide](#).*