

# MiBrew

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Creating Craft Beer Labels

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**On the cover:** Marty Reddick (Gene Simmons), Jackie Erway (Cadillac, MI Spokesmodel), Mark Burk (Paul Stanley).  
Photo courtesy of [CadillacMichigan.com](http://CadillacMichigan.com)

# Cadillac: FOUR SEASONS OF FUN

BY DAVID MICHAEL



PHOTO COURTESY OF CADILLAC MICHIGAN.COM

**A**re you looking for a great getaway destination? Look no further than Cadillac. The area has something for everyone regardless of the time of the year. The region boasts 300 miles of multi-seasonal trails for hikers, bikers, and walkers, over 60 miles of cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, 200 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, 34 downhill ski runs with over 485 feet of vertical drop, and eight golf courses with 153 holes.

Plus in the center of it are Lakes Cadillac and Mitchell connected by a canal where the state park is located. These lakes are the perfect size for all water activities from boating, waterskiing, kayaking, and swimming in the warmer months to ice fishing during the winter. The area is surrounded by smaller lakes, plus rivers and streams.

With spring on the horizon, the Cadillac area is exceptional for finding morels. The Manistee, Pere Marquette, and Pine Rivers are nearby and offer excellent trout fishing, kayaking, and canoeing opportunities. With its rolling hills, the area is also exceptional during the fall color season and is a hunter's paradise.

The "Craft Trail" is a collection of 12 stops that offer plenty of opportunities to taste craft beers and enjoy a bite to eat — highlighted by the Clam Lake Beer Co. in downtown with over 40 beers on tap.

Here are a few suggestions when visiting Cadillac:

## KISSstory Tour

In October of 1975, legendary rock band KISS came to Cadillac to participate in the high school homecoming activities. The band rode in the homecoming parade, performed a concert in the high school gym, and toured around town. The

event is often cited as one of the top 10 moments in their Rock 'n' Roll history.

"In our forty-five years as a band we have played thousands of shows, and Cadillac will always stick out," said Gene Simmons, lead singer and bass player. "People always say what a great thing we did for Cadillac. I believe it is the other way around. We [KISS] are grateful for what Cadillac did for us."



In 2015 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the KISS visit, Cadillac unveiled the KISSStory Tour. It begins at the high school football field where a large black granite monument was erected in honor of KISS. The self-guided tour is two-and-a-half miles and may be walked or driven. To enhance the tour experience visit [KissCadillac.com](http://KissCadillac.com) and watch the videos made by Jim Neff, the assistant football coach and orchestrator of KISS coming to Cadillac. Each of the four videos corresponds with each of the four tour stops.

The KISSStory tour has become a significant attraction for Cadillac, bringing in visitors from around the world. One noteworthy recent visitor to the KISSStory Tour: Rock and Roll Hall of Famer David Grohl of Nirvana and Foo Fighters fame. Grohl, after enjoying the tour, stopped into the Clam Lake Beer Co. and tasted a few Michigan craft beers and took photos with patrons and staff.

*More information:* [KissCadillac.com](http://KissCadillac.com)

### **Cadillac Lakes Car Cruise & Car Show**

The largest car show in Northwest Michigan takes place the second weekend of June each year in downtown Cadillac. Formerly known as Back to the Bricks Cruise Cadillac, the many activities remain the same. Highlights include the Blessing of the Classics Shoreline Shine, a poker run, and a 15-mile cruise around the lakes on Saturday. The car show takes place on Sunday and stretches seven blocks. The weekend also features lots of entertainment, food and drink, a scavenger hunt, and activities for the kids.

*More information:* [CadillacLakeCruise.com](http://CadillacLakeCruise.com)

### **Cadillac Festival of the Arts**

Up North Arts will be presenting the 51st Annual Cadillac Festival of the Arts and the Phyllis Olson Art Fair the weekend of July 19 and 20. The event showcases fine artists, artisans, food vendors, and local music. May Erlewine is the weekend musical headliner. Erlewine often performs around Michigan, where she is a favorite at several brewery taprooms.

The Cadillac area offers a good range of multidisciplinary community arts programming including opportunities for visual artists, public art, choral and instrumental music, community theatre, local history, dance, literature, and arts education.

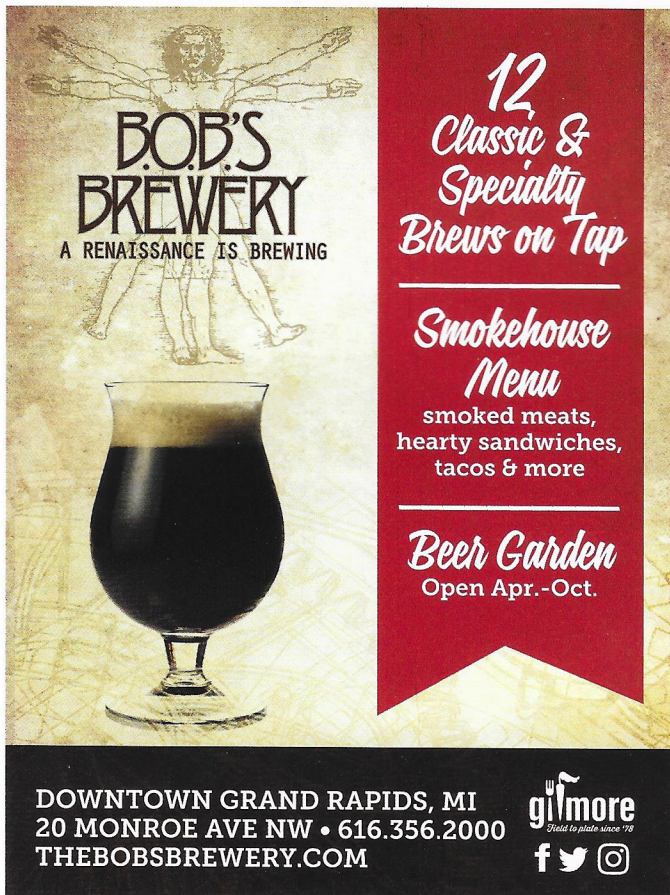
During the fall and winter months, the Gopherwood Concert series host several touring musicians. The summer months at the Downtown Pavilion on the shores of Lake Cadillac features free music Monday - Thursday nights starting at 7 p.m.

*More information:* [UpNorthArtsInc.com](http://UpNorthArtsInc.com)

### **Bear Claw Epic Mountain Bike Race**

Taking place on the Cadillac Pathway trails, the Bear Claw Epic is a mountain bike race for riders of all skill levels and ages. The 2019 race takes place Saturday, September 28. The loop is roughly seven miles and incorporates portions of single track and double track. Proceeds from the race go directly toward the maintenance, preservation, and improvement of the Cadillac Pathway. The Cadillac Pathway is a multi-use, non-motorized recreation trail open for users year-round.





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The Bear Claw features beginner, intermediate, sport, expert and elite categories and the number of loops is based on skill level. There is also a Bear Cub Epic that has a course for kids under 6 and a course for kids 6-14.

There are awards given each category for all the races based on age division. There are also Fat Tire, Single Speed, and Men's Clydesdale categories. For craft beer fans, there is good news: The race is on the same day as the Cadillac Craft Beer Festival.

*More information:* [BearClawEpic.com](http://BearClawEpic.com)

### Cadillac Craft Beer Festival

Established in 2009, the Cadillac Craft Beer Festival has grown leaps and bounds to include the best in local libations, food, and music. This year's festival is on Saturday, September 28, at the City Park at the Cadillac Commons overlooking Lake Cadillac. Last year, 16 Michigan breweries have participated, and more are expected for this year. There is also a homebrew competition, plus tailgate and yard games, food and retail vendors, commemorative pint glasses, and special VIP packages for Beer Geeks!

*More information:* [CadillacCraftBeerFest.com](http://CadillacCraftBeerFest.com) 

### More 2019 Events

- ▶ Cadillac Jeepers Blessing – May 4
- ▶ Mesick Mushroom Festival – May 10-12
- ▶ Greatest Fourth in the North – July 4-7
- ▶ After 26 Music Festival – August 3
- ▶ Buckley Old Engine Show – August 15-18
- ▶ Cadillac Festival of Races – August 31
- ▶ Fall Color Train & Historical Festival – October 5

Content for this article was provided by The Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau. Visit [CadillacMichigan.com](http://CadillacMichigan.com) or visit Greater Cadillac on Facebook for additional information.

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