1 Standish Historic Depot & Welcome Center

2 Rifle River

3 Old Courthouse & Masonic Hall: Omer

4 Arenac County Historical Museum & Genealogical Society

5 Saganing Eagles Landing Casino

6 Au Gres River/Lake Huron Boat Launch & Breakwall

7 Au Gres Riverfront Park & Campground

8 Charity Island National Wildlife Refuge

9 Maple Ridge Historic Schoolhouse

10 Arenac County Parks

Located at the gateway to the US 23 Heritage Route, this restored MI Central R.R. Depot, built in 1889, is also the newest State “Welcome Center.” Inside displays contain railroad artifacts and depot memorabilia. Special displays change monthly. Outside are two vintage British rail coaches open for viewing. Begin your Sunrise Coast trip by stopping in at the Standish Depot located at the corner of US 23 and M-61 in Standish. Open daily.

Numerous rapids make this stream one of the Lower Peninsula’s fastest and one of the state’s most popular trout fishing and canoeing destinations. Perfect for birders and wildlife viewing enthusiasts. An MDNR public access site is located on the south edge of Omer, just off US 23. Several private canoe liverys are also located along the Rifle River.

Currently on the National Register of Historic Places, the building was built in 1890 and served as the county’s first courthouse. When the county seat was moved to Standish, it became the local Masonic Lodge. Visitors can see Arenac’s first jail as well as an 1890’s era barber shop, Old Masonic, city, and township records make it an excellent source of genealogical information. Inside this 1883 church are re-creations of a rural school room, bedroom, parlor, apothecary shop, a country store and vintage apparel. The 2-story museum also features railroading and commercial fishing exhibits and is the genealogy center for the area. The museum also houses information on Historic Charity Island. Location: 304 E. Michigan Avenue, Au Gres. Open weekends 1:00 to 4:00 from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

With over 800 exciting slots and a variety of electronic table games, there are plenty of ways to hit it big close to home. At 32,000 square feet, this comfortable and convenient casino is the natural choice for fun and games. Location: 2650 Worth Road, off M-13, just south of Standish. sagningeagleslanding.com

There’s plenty of parking (300 spaces for vehicles and trailers) at the Au Gres DNR boat launch located just in from the mouth of the Au Gres River. With a concrete ramps and loading docks, it doesn’t take long to get on and off Saginaw Bay. The facility ends on a point jutting out into Lake Huron. It offers a scenic view of the Lake Huron coastline, especially for those using the long pier. A terrific year-round location for both hiking and bird watching. Location: just east of the City of Au Gres.

This shaded 23-acre city-owned park and campground is just a short distance from the DNR Au Gres River boat launch and Lake Huron breakwall. A paved walkway and wooden bridge connect it to downtown Au Gres. The campground has 119 sites with full hook-ups. Location: just north of US 23 on the northern edge of Au Gres. A 2.5 mile bike path runs from the park to the Lake Huron Breakwall.

tofuca.gov/mi.org/

222-acre Charity Island, the largest island in Saginaw Bay, is part of the “Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge”. Its isolated beaches and unique hardwood forest provide excellent habitat for rare and protected plants, animals and songbirds. The island is located approximately 10 miles offshore. Michigan Islands NWR are closed to the public but wildlife observation and photography are welcome off-shore. A privately-run dinner cruise and lighthouse experience is available on the privately-owned portion of Charity Island. fws.gov/refuge/Michigan_Islands

The interior of this fully restored 1904 one-room schoolhouse takes you back in time to ink wells and slate chalkboards. Artifacts include period wall maps, wall alphabets, text books and more. Stop in and browse an interesting collection of period class photos. Directions: From US 23, take M-65 to Maple Ridge Road and turn left.

For Charter Boats on Saginaw Bay... go to www.heritage23.com.

Daily pass needed for Pt. Au Gres Park and Oasis Lake Park. Pass available at parks or at the Arenac County Courthouse (989) 876-4146. arenacountytn.gov/Recreation/Parks.aspx

Located on Lake Huron. A great sandy beach, picnic and play areas. Three pavilions, volleyball, horseshoe pits, and barrier-free boardwalk available. 16 campsites (7 with water and electric hookups) and 5 rustic cabins each with sleeping accommodations for four adults. Reservations: (989) 876-4146. Location: southeast of AuGres at 3177 S. Rumsey Road.

A 207-acre site with a 22 acre lake. The park offers swimming, fishing, picnic areas, children’s playground, beach volleyball, and horseshoe pits. 25 rustic campsites available. Location: M-76 between Sterling and Alger.

This lovely 46-acre wooded area is made up of fully mature trees and is adjacent to a softball field. There are numerous opportunities for hiking and appreciating the natural habitat. Location: from the corner of US 23 and M-61, east 3.5 miles to Arenac State Road, then north 2 miles. Watch for signs.

Check out our video series featuring.....

Tuttle Marsh
Also featuring: Shipwreck Alley, Ocqueoc Falls, and Historic MI Creek

Pt. AuGres Park
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