

# Beaver Island, Michigan, USA

Lake Michigan's largest island offers a rare step off the grid — wild beaches, deep Irish roots, and a quirky past that saw a self-proclaimed Mormon king rule these shores in the 1850s.

 Tender (St. James Harbor)

 Typical call: 6–8 hrs

 US Dollar

 English

 Small-ship itineraries

## MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Arrive: \_\_\_\_\_ All aboard: \_\_\_\_\_

Excursion: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## GETTING ASHORE

**Docking:** Tender to St. James Harbor municipal dock

**Best For:** Nature, history, cycling, beaches, stargazing

**Walk to center:** 0–2 min from tender dock to St. James village

**Don't Miss:** Mormon Print Shop Museum & Beaver Head Lighthouse

Getting around:  Taxi  Varies by distance

## TOP THINGS TO DO

- Mormon Print Shop Museum** — Explore the island's remarkable past: Native American life, 19th-century Irish settlement, and the story of James Strang — self-declared king of his...
- Beaver Head Lighthouse Hike** — A scenic drive or bike ride to the island's southern tip leads to the 1851 Beaver Head Lighthouse.
- Kayaking & Paddleboarding** — Rentals in St.
- Birding Trail** — Beaver Island sits on a major migratory flyway.
- Marine Museum & Heritage Park** — The Marine Museum — housed in a former net shed — documents Beaver Island's Great Lakes fishing and shipbuilding heritage.

## BEST WALKS

- St. James Village Stroll** 0.5 mi · Easy · 20–30 min — Walk the compact waterfront village from the municipal dock past the Marine Museum, Mormon Print Shop Museum, local shops, and restaurants.
- Big Sand Bay Trail** 2 mi round trip · Easy · 1 hr — A quiet forest trail leading to one of Beaver Island's most remote and pristine beaches on Lake Michigan — ideal for a peaceful swim or beachcombing away from the...

## WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

|     | Mon | High | Low | Rain |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Apr |     | 40°  | 32° | 12d  |
| Jun |     | 62°  | 53° | 10d  |
| Aug |     | 70°  | 64° | 9d   |
| Sep |     | 65°  | 59° | 11d  |
| Oct |     | 54°  | 48° | 15d  |

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:55AM–8:28PM · Jun 5:51AM–9:33PM · Aug 6:42AM–8:49PM · Sep 7:21AM–7:52PM · Oct 7:59AM–6:55PM

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Small ships only. Beaver Island calls are exclusive to expedition and small-ship cruises (typically under 250 passengers). Verify your ship tenders here before booking excursions.
- Bring cash. Card acceptance is limited on the island. An ATM is available in St. James but stock up before leaving the mainland.
- Rent a bike. The island has 100+ miles of forest roads and bike-friendly tracks. A rental bike opens up beaches and landmarks well beyond the village.
- Dark skies. Beaver Island is one of the darkest spots in Michigan. If your ship overnights here, the Milky Way and Northern Lights are visible with no light pollution.
- Lake Michigan weather. Conditions change rapidly. Bring a windproof layer even in summer — tenders can be cancelled in rough weather.
- Bug spray. Forest trails in summer can be buggy. Pack insect repellent for any hike away from the waterfront.

# Beaver Island, Michigan, USA — Port Map

[cruiseports.org](https://cruiseports.org)

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



**P** Cruise port / terminal