

# Michigan's top fall color spot is ... Tunnel of Trees

Kathleen Lavey, Lansing State Journal Published 8:19 a.m. ET Oct. 19, 2016 | Updated 8:19 a.m. ET Oct. 19, 2016



(Photo: Courtesy photo)

CROSS VILLAGE — The unique restaurant known as Legs Inn has just closed for the season, but that may have been a hasty decision. [Fullscreen](#)

"Fall color is probably peaking right now," said owner George Ten **best fall hikes in Michigan** not for another week or so."

The Tunnel of Trees — 20-odd miles along Lake Michigan between Cross Village and Harbor Springs in the northwestern Lower Peninsula — won honors as Michigan's top fall color spot. X

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Legs Inn is a popular destination for people on fall color drives, who can wait two hours or more to get a table in the unique, hand-built stone eatery with eclectic driftwood accents, sweeping views of Lake Michigan and traditional Polish food.

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At this time of year, Smolak jokes, "There are more people on M-119 than there are people on the freeway going to Lansing."

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Other contenders in our fall color bracket were Lower Peninsula bright spots the Thumb, the Irish Hills, Hartwick Pines near Grayling, Rose Lake Wildlife area in Bath Township, Belle Isle State Park in Detroit, Yankee Springs Recreation Area, the Au Sable River Valley, Ludington, M-22 on the Leelanau Peninsula and the University of Michigan campus. Upper Peninsula color spots included the Porcupine Mountains, Keewenaw Peninsula, Tahquamenon Falls and Mackinac Island.



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The Legs Inn in Cross Village is a popular destination for visitors to the M-119 Tunnel of Trees. (Photo: Lansing State Journal file photo)

Although Legs Inn is closed for the season, there are plenty of other things to do and see in the vicinity of the Tunnel of Trees. Stop at Pond Hill Farm, where kids can visit livestock, pick out pumpkins or put a piece of produce in the "squash rocket" and launch it. Have a sandwich or a salad at the farm-to-table café or a pumpkin pilsner from Tunnel Vision Brewery. Don't like beer? No problem. Sip a glass of wine from Harbor Springs Vineyards instead.

Or stop at the Good Hart General Store, which offers refreshments, apparel and baked goods. The route also includes historic churches, Native American sites and more.

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