



Exploring Dark Skies

- 1 - Thompson's Harbor State Park
GPS: 45.335465, -83.603988
- 2 - Rockport State Recreation Area
GPS: 45.202386, -83.384044
- 3 - Negwegon State Park
GPS: 44.865832, -83.327580



Left photo: Sunset kayak adventure, courtesy Paul Gerow; Top Right photo: Rockport State Recreation Area sky at dusk, courtesy Paul Gerow; Bottom Right photo: New Presque Isle Lighthouse near Rockport State Recreation Area, courtesy Pure North Photography.



Alpena Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
235 W. Chisholm St., Alpena, MI 49707
www.VisitAlpena.com | 989-354-4181



3-Locations!
Dark Sky Preserve Parks

3-Location Dark Sky Destination: Alpena, MI



Above: The aurora borealis mesmerizes the Northeast Michigan night sky, courtesy Paul Gerow. Below: Rockport State Recreation Area is engulfed by the Milky Way as friends enjoy a campfire, courtesy Paul Gerow.

Rural isolation has its benefits. Being miles away from any major metropolitan area gives Alpena a unique advantage for those who enjoy the mysteries revealed in the night sky. Our lack of concentrated light pollution makes the cosmos appear crisp and clear. With Alpena as your base camp, dark lands exploration abounds at our three designated Dark Sky Preserves: Rockport State Recreation Area, Thompson's Harbor State Park, and Negwegon State Park. Light pollution at these parks are among the lowest measured in the Great Lakes. Stars, aurora borealis, meteors, planets and moons await your discovery.



Eat, Sleep & Fuel-up in Alpena Alpena, MI 49707

24 Hour Alpena Stores and Gas Stations:

- **7-Eleven:** (989) 354-0970, 650 N. Ripley Blvd.
- **Wal-Mart Supercenter:** (989) 354-0830, 1180 M-32.
- **Admiral:** (989) 358-9818, 906 W. Washington Ave., AND (989) 354-4833, 2520 US-23 S.
- **Meijer:** (989) 884-6100, 1251 M-32 W.
- **Meijer Gas Station:** (989) 884-6129
- **Diamond's Point Self Service Shell Station:** (989) 354-2550, 2404 US-23 S.
- **Chisholm Street Full Service Shell Station:** (989) 356-2001, 1017 W. Chisholm St.
- **Corner Depot Shell Self Service Station:** (989) 354-2512, 999 Long Rapids Rd.

24 Hour Alpena Restaurants:

- **McDonald's:** (989) 354-5522, 1115 W. Chisholm Street.
- **John Boy's:** (989) 356-0481, 817 W. Chisholm St.
- **Nick's Southside Diner:** (24 hrs. /Tuesday-Saturday): (989) 358-1955, 3023 US-23 S.

Early Morning Restaurants:

- **Cabin Creek Coffee:** (989) 356-5613, 201 N. Second Ave., Hours: 6:30 am-7:30 pm
- **Big Boy:** (989) 354-4131, 400 S. Ripley Blvd., Hours: 6 am - 10 pm
- **J.J.'s Steak and Pizza House** (7 am-2 am Mon-Sat, 7 am-12 am Sun): (989) 356-1666, 411 N. Second Ave.

Late Night Alpena Restaurants:

- **Taco Bell** (7am -12am.): (989) 354-7991, 111 Paddington Ct.
- **Burger King** (6 am-12 am): (989) 356-3639, 2394 US-23 S.
- **J.J.'s Steak and Pizza House** (7 am-2 am Mon-Sat, 7 am-12 am Sun): (989) 356-1666, 411 N. Second Ave.

Rockport State Recreation Area

GPS: 45.202386, -83.384044

Distance from Alpena: 11 miles north of Alpena via US-23 N. to Rockport Road. Follow Rockport Rd to the end.

On-site facilities: Vault toilet, picnic area.

Rockport is Michigan's 100th State park and includes an abandoned limestone quarry, more than a dozen sinkholes, 400+ million-year-old Devonian Era fossils, a bat hibernaculum, historic ghost village, deep water port and pier, and a portion of Middle Island. The blink of Middle Island Lighthouse on the island can be seen from the mainland.

Closest late-night/early-morning conveniences and distance from park. Call to confirm operation hours as they may change seasonally.

Dinner:

- **The Sandbar & Grill** (7 miles): (989) 595-0009, 9027 Long Lake Road, Alpena, MI 49707
- **Grand Lake Daily Limit** (12 miles): (989) 595-2560, 15878 US 23 N., Presque Isle, MI 49707
- **Hide Away Tavern** (4 miles): (989) 595-6787, 1085 US 23 N., Alpena, MI 49707

Breakfast:

- **MI Shortstop** (9 miles): (989) 354-5318, 1141 US 23 N, Alpena, MI 49707, Hours 6 am-8 pm (Kitchen)

Gas Station/Convenience Stores:

- **Opechee's** (2 miles): (989) 595-6776, 9621 Hwy US 23 N, Alpena, MI 49707, Hours: 6:30 am - 10 pm, Sunday 8 am- 8 pm
- **MI Shortstop** (9 miles): (989) 354-5318, 1141 Hwy US 23 N, Alpena, MI 49707, Hours: 5 am - 10 pm M-F, 7 am-10 pm Sat.-Sun. (Service Station)

*Also see Alpena options on facing page.

Thompson's Harbor State Park

GPS: 45.335465, -83.603988

Distance from Alpena: 26 miles North of Alpena on US-23 N.

On-site Facilities: Parking area. Vault toilet.

Primitive, marked hiking trails weave through Thompson's Harbor State Park's varying terrain. Second growth forest with more than 7 miles of Lake Huron shoreline of limestone cobble beaches, and deep sand dunes await adventures. The park is home to Michigan's state wildflower, the Dwarf Lake Iris, which is under special protection.

Dinner:

- **McDonald's** (15 miles): (989) 734-7131, 290 S. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- **Kelly's Venture Inn** (11 miles): (989) 734-2865, 3090 US 23 S, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 4-10 pm

Breakfast:

- **McDonald's** (15 miles): (989) 734-7131, 290 S. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 am -11 pm

Negwegon State Park

GPS: 44.865832, -83.327580

Distance from Alpena: 20 miles South of Alpena on US-23 S. Take US-23 S to Wilds Rd. Turn East on Wilds Rd. Wilds Rd. turns into Sand Hill Rd. and then turns East onto Negwegon Park Rd.

On-site facilities: Vault toilet, artesian well.

At Negwegon you can transport yourself back in time and hike through the wilds of Michigan, just as rugged and pristine as when the first settlers arrived in Northeast Michigan.

Dinner:

- **The Mountain Inn** (5 miles): (989) 471-2066, 5495 US-23 S, Black River, MI 48742
- **The Wagon Wheel** (8 miles): (989) 471-1125, 2030 E. Nicholson Hill Road, Ossineke, MI 49766
- **Rosa's Lookout Inn** (9 miles): (989) 471-2118, 6808 US-23 S, Spruce, MI, 48762
- **Subway** (8 miles): (989) 471-8000, 11596 US-23 S, Ossineke, MI 49766, Hours 7 am -9 pm (10 pm Thurs-Sat)

Breakfast:

- **Connie's Café** (8 miles): (989) 471-5415, 11585 US-23 S, Ossineke, MI 49766, Hours 7 am-2 pm (Fridays open until 8 pm)

Gas Station/Convenience Stores:

- **Chippewa Point Grocery** (8 miles): (989) 471-9159, 6575 US-23 S, Spruce, MI 48762, Hours: 8 am- 9 pm
- **BP Ossineke** (8 miles): (989) 471-2676, 11596 US-23 S, Ossineke, MI 49766, Hours: 7 am -10 pm
- **Francis Service Station** (8 miles): (989) 471-2356, 11923 US-23 S., Ossineke, MI 49766, Hours: 6 am -9 pm, Sunday 8 am- 9 pm

Harrisville Locations (Harrisville is 25 miles South of Negwegon)

Breakfast:

- **The Flour Garden** (25 miles): (989) 724-7473, 105 S. State Street, Harrisville, MI 49740, Hours: 7:30 am- 3 pm

Dinner:

- **Ki Cuylers Sports Bar** (25 miles): (989) 724-5866, 262 US 23, Harrisville, MI 49740, Hours: 11 am - 10 pm

Gas:

- **Harrisville Shell Station** (25 miles): (989) 724-6159, 217 S. State St., Harrisville, MI 48740, Hours: 5 am -12 am

- **Kortman's Restaurant** (16 miles): (989) 734-3512, 481 N. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 am - 8 pm

- **Subway** (15 miles): (989) 734-4903, 285 S. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 am -9 pm

Gas Stations/Convenience Stores:

- **Citgo** (15 Miles): (989) 734-7133, 153 S. 3rd Street, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 6 am - 11 pm

- **Sunoco/Bayport food Store:** (989) 734-4903, 285 S. Bradley Hwy, Rogers City, MI 49779, Hours: 5:30 am - 10 pm