

BAY CITY

CELEBRATION EDITION

8 WEDDING
TRENDS TO
WATCH

"I DO" IN THE BAY CITY

A FIRST LOOK:
BEST OF
BAY CITY

12 MUST SEE & DO

SELF-
INDULGENCE
SPA RETREAT

YOU DESERVE THIS

CONTENTS

5

Self-Indulgence

Retreat to the Spa

6

On-Trend

The latest in Bay City Weddings

8

A First Look

Top 12 Things to See & Do in Bay City

12

Recipe

Info about recipe

14

Style Guide

Inspiration for your Bay City celebration

20

Bavarian Bliss

Our Favorite Hidden Gems in Frankenmuth

Letter from the *Editor*



***There is no
occasion to small
to celebrate in
Bay City.***

Mandy Merry
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The friendly city of Bay City, MI invites with history, access, and historic charm. Filled with beautiful scenery, this Northeast Michigan gem sits at the bottom of Saginaw Bay on the banks of the Saginaw River. Only 1.5 hours from Detroit, it is an ideal spot to host a celebration: a wedding, birthday, or romantic getaway.

Each day is a reason to celebrate, and life's magic moments are more reason to plan something special. I love this City, as the community loves a festival or party- and no occasion is too small to celebrate. The area hosts many events/festivals throughout the year - bringing people together to laugh, enjoy, and make memories. To name a few: largest Polish Festival in Michigan (June), annual Bay City 3-day Fireworks Event-largest in Michigan (July), Cool City Car Show and Cruze (July),

the River of Time Historical Reenactment (September), Historic Homes Tour (October), the Bay City State Recreation Area Winter Festival (February), and Christmas Parlour Tour (December).

There is so much depth to Bay City. You'll enjoy the vintage schooners on the water, and dining at great restaurants or antiquing to find a collectible.

This issue is dedicated to celebrations. And I hope you find a reason to celebrate in Bay City.

Self-indulgence

RETREAT TO THE SPA



Photography by Tom Krueger

Reap the benefits of relaxing at the private Spa at Historic Webster House Bed & Breakfast. Reduce your stress levels, ease your mind, and allow your body the pampering it deserves with a massage and sauna package.

For an extra \$125, you can upgrade your stay in any of the six luxury rooms/suites and gain exclusive access to the spa and sauna room. Here, you'll have exclusive and private time to enjoy the oversized whirlpool tub for two, cedar dry sauna, overhead double rain shower, and wine refrigerator.

Sauna and Soaking Tub in the Keep Room at Historic Webster House



Photography by Tom Krueger



Photography by Tom Krueger

A touch of elegance meets hospitality at the storied Inn and world-class spa. Chef's daily choice breakfast menu invites tastes of all seasons; enjoy lavish tea parties and sitting in the gardens with the songbirds. All suites invite romance and relaxation.

Nourish yourself in Bay City and take advantage of the ultimate romance in The Keep Room, or reinvigorate your soul in the designated spa.

SPA TREATMENTS:

- Relaxation Massage
- Hot Stone Massage
- Reflexology
- Pregnancy Massage
- Deep Tissue
- Aromatherapy

Pro Tip: Book the Keep Room for exclusive access to the spa.

*the latest in Bay City
wedding celebrations*

8 *Wedding Trends*

Photography by Angel Sharise



Saying, "I Do," your way, in Bay City

Destination Weddings and Elopements at Historic Webster House

In the heart of Bay City stands the timeless elegance of Historic Webster House. Rich in history and grandeur, it is no wonder couples are opting for destination weddings at this enchanting venue. Picture-perfect backdrops, luxurious accommodations, and top-notch hospitality await. Rent the entire inn for a weekend celebration and getaway with family and friends. The all-inclusive packages ensure a stress-free celebration where every detail is meticulously taken care of, leaving couples to focus solely on creating unforgettable memories. Ask about the Elopement, Intimate, & Micro-Wedding package.

Just the Two of Us

With its convenient location, Bay City draws couples from all over Michigan looking to elope. The elopement trend is here to stay and offers less stress, uniqueness, and an intimate vow exchange.

Who Will Marry Us?

In the spirit of personalization, couples are bringing their own officiant to preside over their wedding ceremonies.

Growing Together in the Garden

Lush garden weddings are another trend. Picturesque Historic Webster House is an enchanting garden venue providing a natural, vibrant background.

Winter and Cooler Weather Weddings Are In

While summer weddings are undoubtedly popular, savvy couples are discovering the charm of off-season weddings in Bay City. Whether it's a cozy winter affair adorned with twinkling lights or a crisp autumn celebration amidst the colorful foliage, off-season weddings offer a unique atmosphere and often come with cost-saving benefits.

Formal Dining Is Out

Move over plated dinners, because grazing tables and charcuterie boards are taking center stage in Bay City weddings. Couples are opting for interactive food displays that encourage mingling and conversation among guests. From artisanal cheeses and cured meats to fresh fruits and gourmet dips, these mouthwatering spreads add a touch of sophistication to the reception while satisfying every palate.

His & Her Libations

Many couples opt to hire on-site bartending services to keep the celebration flowing smoothly. From crafting signature cocktails (often named after the couple) to ensuring a well-stocked bar, professional bartenders add a touch of flair to the festivities while ensuring that guests are well taken care of throughout the evening.

Eco-Friendly Is Top of Mind

Couples are opting for eco-friendly décor, sustainable food options, and using recycled paper for their invitations. By choosing eco-friendly options, couples can add a personal touch to their wedding while also reducing their carbon footprint.

A FIRST LOOK: BEST of BAY CITY

In the heart of mid-Michigan, along the banks of the Saginaw River, Bay City radiates a charming blend of historic architecture, vibrant culture, and natural beauty. Whether you're a history buff, a foodie, an outdoor enthusiast, or simply seeking relaxation, Bay City is an enticing getaway. Stay at the top-rated Historic Webster House, within walking distance of downtown- and explore the natural beauty and bounty of the area with these top 12 things to do in this hidden gem of Michigan.

Photography by Tom Krueger



1. Indulge in Local Dining

*B*egin your culinary journey in Bay City by sampling its diverse dining scene. Many restaurants on the water offer scenic views of sailboats and sunsets. Savor fresh seafood at Real Seafood Company, a farm-to-table experience at MI Table, or the global cuisine of Old City Hall Restaurant. Best of Bay City includes breakfast at Historic Webster House.

Beer lovers will enjoy Tavern 101, and for the wine connoisseur, visit Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie. Historic Webster House provides a great list for dining reference - historicwebsterhouse.com/blog/the-top-ten-bay-city-restaurants/

2. Tall Ship Excursions

Step back in time and set sail on a vintage-looking schooner along the scenic waters of Saginaw Bay. A three-hour tour aboard the tall ship Schooner

Appledore at sunset is a romantic way to spend the evening or take in the scenic vistas. These ailing adventures bring maritime history to life. Tall Ships are popular here, so much so there is a dedicated Bay City Tall Ship Celebration every July.

baysailbaycity.org

3. Explore Frankenmuth

Michigan's "Little Bavaria" is a short drive from Bay City. Spend a day exploring Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, indulging in world-famous chicken dinners at Zehnder's or Bavarian Inn Restaurant, taking a horse-drawn carriage or river cruise, and strolling along the flower-lined streets of this picturesque town.

frankenmuth.org

4. Historic Architecture

Immerse yourself in Bay City's rich architectural heritage by taking a leisurely stroll through its historic neighborhoods.

Admire the ornate Victorian homes along Center Avenue, explore the grandeur of the State Theatre, and marvel at the intricate details of the Bay County Historical Society Museum. Check out the Bay County Historical Society for exhibits and history in the area. They can direct you on the best route to see some of the finest examples of the Midwest's finest Victorian architecture.

bchsmuseum.org

5. Antiquing

Discover the abundance of vintage treasures at Bay City Antiques and the Bay Antique Center. The 60,000-square-foot building spans an entire city block, full of fantastic treasures, vintage collectibles, apparel, jewelry, furniture, and so much more. You could truly find yourself spending hours here, searching for rare finds in the unique collection of vendors.

antiquecenteronline.com

6. Dow Gardens

Escape to a botanical paradise at Dow Gardens, a 20-minute drive from Bay City to Midland. Explore lush gardens, scenic trails, and enchanting water features spread across 110 acres of meticulously landscaped grounds. You must do the forest canopy walk, soaring 40 feet above the ground through 54 acres of woodlands, ponds, apple orchards, meadows, and streams dowgardens.org

Visit Frankmuth



Relax at the Spa at Historic Webster House Bed & Breakfast

historicwebsterhouse.com



Photography by Tom Krueger

10. Historic Webster House Spa

One of Bay City's hidden gems: the Spa at Historic Webster House. Housed within a beautifully restored Victorian mansion, this spa sanctuary is the perfect place to reconnect with your significant other or enjoy some sole relaxation and rejuvenation. Book The Keep room for full access to the spa during your stay. The spa is available to Historic Webster House guests only.

11. Tobico Marsh and Bay City State Park

Embrace the largest remaining coastal wetlands on the Great Lakes: Tobico Marsh. Explore miles of scenic trails, spot native wildlife, and enjoy the nature-inspired playground "Play by the Bay" at Bay City State Park. It is a delightful spot to kayak along the marshland channels or picnic on the sandy shores of Saginaw Bay. www.michigan.org/property/bay-city-state-park

7. Concerts in the Park

The summer months bring the magic of live music under the stars at Bay City's Wenonah Park. The Wednesday night concert series features a diverse lineup of local and national artists. Pack a picnic, grab a blanket, and enjoy an evening of unforgettable performances against the backdrop of the Saginaw River.

9

8. Princess Wenonah Boat Tours

Embark on a scenic cruise aboard Princess Wenonah and discover the beauty of the Saginaw River. Whether you opt for a leisurely sightseeing tour, a festive dinner cruise, or dancing the night away on the 'Rock The Boat Concert Series, 'you'll be treated to stunning views of Bay City's skyline and waterfront landmarks.

baycityboatlines.com

9. Hell's Half Mile Film Festival

This independent series celebrates four days and nights of indie film and music in Downtown Bay City each September. The annual Hell's Half Mile Film Festival always features a curated selection of thought-provoking films, engaging panel discussions, and lively after-parties. Where musicians, festival-goers, and filmmakers mingle.

hhmfest.com

12. Shiawassee Flats Boat Tours and Birding

A birdwatcher and nature enthusiast haven. Take a guided boat tour of the Shiawassee Flats, a pristine wetland and bottomland forest habitat teeming with birdlife. Led by knowledgeable naturalists, these tours provide an up-close look at native species such as herons, egrets, and bald eagles.

BONUS:

Minor League Baseball in Midland: Just a short drive from Bay City, sports fans can catch a minor league baseball game at Dow Diamond in Midland. Cheer on the Great Lakes Loons, the Class A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers, as they take the field against rival teams in a family-friendly atmosphere.

History Home Tours and Parlor Tours: Delve into Bay City's storied past with local historical societies' guided home tours and parlor tours. Explore meticulously preserved Victorian mansions, learn about the lives of the city's early settlers, and gain insight into Bay City's fascinating history through immersive experiences led by passionate guides.

From culinary delights to outdoor adventures, cultural attractions, and historical landmarks, Bay City offers something for everyone to enjoy. So pack your bags, hit the road, and embark on an unforgettable journey to this hidden gem on Michigan's shores. Your next getaway awaits in Bay City!



Photography by Go Great Lakes Bay



Photography by Go Great Lakes Bay



Photography by Go Great Lakes Bay

RECIPE:

QUICHE LORRAINE

INGREDIENTS:

5 slices bacon chopped
4 large eggs
2 cups half half
1/8 t. freshly grated nutmeg
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
1 T. chopped fresh chives
8 oz. Swiss or Gruyere cheese, grated (about 2 cups)
Green salad for serving

PREPARATION:

Blind Bake pie crust in a preheated 375 oven with the rack in lower bottom position. Fill with pie weights, place aluminum foil around edges to prevent overbrowning. Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Heat bacon in a medium skillet or in an oven until brown and crispy for about 14-16 minutes. Drain on a paper towel. Whisk eggs in a bowl, add half half and nutmeg whisk to combine. Season with salt and pepper. Whisk in bacon and chives. Spread 1 1/2 cups of cheese on bottom of pie crust. Top with egg mixture then remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake until slightly wobbly in the center 30-35 minutes at 375. Allow to rest 10 minutes to cool before cutting. Yield 6 slices. Serve with arugula salad on the side.

Photography by Marcus Berg



HOW TO SPEND A WEEKEND IN BAY CITY

by Jen W. O'Deay + Go Great Lakes Bay

With distinct neighborhoods and unique spots to explore, Bay City, Michigan is a waterfront playground of possibilities.

Shop antique centers to artisan boutiques, sample eclectic coffee shops and eateries, belly up for craft beer and handcrafted cocktails, and even board a tall ship to sail off into the sunset! It's all available (and ready when you are) on your weekend in Bay City!

Breakfast: Start your day at Populace Coffee with a scratch-made bagel (some vegan), baked-in-house goods (some gluten-free), and drip coffee or a seasonal latte. Or, try Harless + Hugh Coffee for artisan toast, house waffles, and specialty sips like the Cardamom Latte or kombucha on tap.

Walk This Way: No matter which of the two shops above you take off from, anything & everything Downtown is just blocks away. Looking for timeless one-of-a-kinds? Experience Michigan's largest antique center — Bay City Antiques Center/Bay Antique Center — and a handful of other antique & vintage shops dotting the nearby streets, from Americana Company Antiques to Retro Attics Studio.

Stroll & Shop: Saunter into Half Mile Handmade and Violets Blue to peruse artisan products and one-of-a-kind gifts. Sample charcuterie and the olive oil & balsamic vinegar tasting bar inside Artigiano Artisan Cheese Shoppe. Get to My Secret Garden, Ferne Boutique, or Panache Boutique and have fun finding what you'll wear out later this evening!

Lunch: With delicious options peppered throughout Downtown, consider Fusion 1 Café for an unforgettable sushi bar, or BarqueBC for specialty smoked meat tacos. Or, if you didn't start your day at Harless + Hugh Coffee, head here. Brunch is served until 2 p.m. and mimosas made with fresh-pressed juices are always flowing!



DAY ONE: HEAD DOWNTOWN

Spend your first day in Downtown Bay City — where historic charm, waterfront views, and endless opportunities abound all within a few walkable city blocks!

Get Creative: Experience the area's largest paint-your-own pottery studio, Painterly Pottery, or complete a project from the Craft Bar menu inside Studio 23/The Arts Center, where instructions and supplies are provided!

Pedals & Pints: Bringing a big group? Sunrise Pedal Trolley is an eight- to 15-person trolley bike that allows pints while pedaling (cheers!) and offers a unique way to travel through town.

Ride past Wenonah Park for picturesque views of the Saginaw River, stop off at St. Laurent Brothers or Sarah's Sweet Escapes for a midday treat, and keep your eyes peeled for places like G.T. Homestead and Little House that you might like to visit later!

Dinner & Dessert: Dine by candlelight at Old City Hall and enjoy their extensive wine list, or experience MI Table to taste Pure Michigan on the plate (alongside a wine, beer, or cider flight, if you like). Or, grab a picnic table down by the water at H2O's Waterside Grill and try a tropical fishbowl drink with your Hawaiian Coconut Cod or one of O's Famous Burgers!

Into the Night: Sample from 54 beers on tap at Tavern 101 and swing by the seasonal, outdoor Drydock Beer Garden in nearby Unity Park. Sip specialty cocktails and share buckets of cold beer at Drift Shoreside Beer Garden, right on the water — with an on-site food truck park for late-night bites! Or, saunter into Beaver's Pub, an inviting whiskey bourbon bar serving delicious sandwiches and burgers, along with handcrafted, seasonal smoked cocktails.

DAY TWO: MEET UPTOWN

Meet Uptown Bay City today and dip your toes into what's available, because Bay City is a waterfront destination full of options worth exploring!

Breakfast: For elevated classics, enjoy Uptown Grill (and choose between Banana Bread French Toast or the Lobster & Brie Omelet). Or, grab a yogurt parfait or delicious quiche at Live Oak Coffeehouse in Uptown, and sip on locally roasted specialty coffee.

Shop in Style: Stroll around Uptown and browse the latest fashions from Omoni Boutique and SoCal Threads — and add a memorable new piece or two to your wardrobe!



Lunch: Stop into Sushi Remix for a light lunch of refreshing Poke (pronounced "poh-kay", bowls filled with deconstructed sushi) and tasty Bubble Tea.

Cap off your evening beneath the brilliant lights of the Third Street Star Bridge — a luminescent display and the perfect backdrop for a keepsake photo of your trip to Bay City!



Photography by Go Great Lakes Bay

SAIL THROUGH THE DAY

BaySail Appledore Tall Ships

If adventuring on Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay aboard the majestic Appledore Tall Ships sounds magnificent (it is), book your freshwater sailing excursion with BaySail! Choose between Great Lakes 101 daytime trips and evening Sunset Sails for gorgeous scenery and nature sightings.



World-Class Catch: Rather drop a line and bring world-class walleye home as souvenirs? Book an outing with a local Saginaw Bay fishing charter! They'll lead you (with expert know-how) through what's hands-down one of the best walleye fisheries in Michigan.

Fresh-Catch Flavors: Dine at casual-upscale Real Seafood Company, and enjoy unbeatable waterfront views along with premium selections. Enjoy scallops seared in balsamic brown butter, fresh catch in your choice of seven preparations, or an order of King Crab Legs. Try their Sunrise on the Saginaw specialty drink with Finlandia citrus vodka during or after dinner!

CRUISE TO VIEWS

Bay City Boat Lines

Hop aboard for a relaxing ride with Bay City Boat Lines. Enjoy a Saginaw River Guided Tour for unforgettable scenery — and look to Rock the Boat or Carefree Cruisin' evening trips, with dinner, live music, and dancing on deck!



Wine & Dine: Experience "a gathering place built on the love of wine" at Prost! Wine Bar & Charcuterie. With build-your-own charcuterie boards and heartier plates from Filet Mignon to Porchetta, sip global wines — including six perfect-temperature pours served on tap.

Dinner & Drinks: Prepare all of your senses for the churrascaria experience of Costela Brazilian Steak House. Sample from top-tier meat selections, cooked over mesquite-wood-fired grills, then carved table-side. Order a traditional Caipirinha — a Brazilian specialty drink with fresh fruits.

Into the Night: Head to Tri-City Brewing Company to try the Hell's Half Mile Lager (fingers crossed for on-site food trucks) or build your own charcuterie board to pair with one of The Public House's thoughtfully crafted artisan cocktails as a nightcap.



Photography by Go Great Lakes Bay

DAY THREE: BRUNCH, THEN BEACH

Spend the rest of your final day in Bay City soaking up any last goodness you didn't get to quite yet!

Brunch: Before you leave, settle in at The Public House for a leisurely Sunday brunch. Enjoy a menu of shareables served family-style — from hash waffles to breakfast burritos — and savor every drop of your mimosa made with fresh-squeezed orange juice!

Beach: Linger over a long brunch, then head to Bay City State Park on your way out of town. Spend the day enjoying more than 1,000 feet of beach along the Lake Huron coast and explore the scenic lagoon trails of Tobico Marsh before closing the book on your memorable trip to Bay City!



Bay City



celebration inspiration

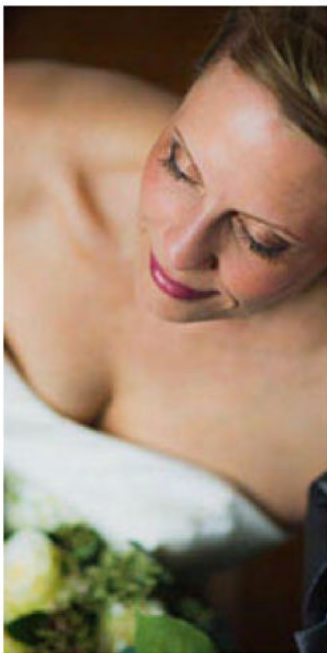
STYLE GUIDE

Photography by Jeff Carpenter

Timeless Wedding Celebrations at Historic Webster House in Bay City, MI



Photography by Angel Sharise



Private Dining

"The Keep Room"

at Historic Webster House



Photography by Tom Krueger

Unexpected indulgences at Historic Webster House

Photography by Tom Krueger





Photography by Tom Krueger

TIMELESS BAY CITY

Small Bites



Photography by Tom Krueger

Bavarian Bliss:

OUR FAVORITE HIDDEN GEMS IN FRANKENMUTH

Frankenmuth, often referred to as “Michigan’s Little Bavaria,” is a charming and compact city celebrated for its strong German heritage and architectural style. Whether you’re spending a day or a weekend, here are some must-do experiences:



by Donna Cain | Michigan Bed & Breakfast Association
Photography by Jimmy Taylor

FRANKENMUTH RIVER PLACE SHOPS

Explore this charming shopping area where stores are designed to resemble Bavarian-style buildings. The area hosts exciting events throughout the year including the Frankenmuth Dog Bowl which is the world’s largest Olympic-style festival for dogs to a Scarecrow Fest with pumpkin catapults. Some of our favorites are noted below.

ZAK & MAC'S CHOCOLATE HAUS

Indulge in freshly-made chocolates that blend old family favorites with bold new flavors.

BLACK STAR FARMS

Michigan's premiere winery, located inside Grand Traverse Distillery, with a handcrafted approach to winemaking. Stop in for a taste!

GREAT LAKES OLIVE COMPANY

Balsamic Vinegars, with taste testing available every day!

CHARLIN'S BOOK NOOK

a used bookstore with literary gems

BAVARIAN BLACKSMITH

see a master blacksmith at work

SUGARHIGH BAKERY

Treat yourself to creative cupcakes and homemade gelato.

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Offering birdfeeders, birdbaths, handmade Lake Superior stone houses and lamps, gifts and souvenirs.

STICKY TEA

Browse a collection of loose-leaf teas from India and Nepal curated for tea aficionados. Holistic, medicinal, and culinary blends – all bee pollen-based!

ST. JULIAN WINERY:

Savor Michigan-produced wines at this winery, where they expertly pair flavors to delight your taste buds!

ST. LORENZ LUTHERAN CHURCH

Discover this historic church just off the main street in Frankenmuth. Its unique architecture is a sight to behold and a highlight of visiting Frankenmuth.

BAVARIAN INN HOLZ BRUCKE COVERED BRIDGE

Admire the beauty and old-fashioned craftsmanship of this covered bridge, especially when it's illuminated at night

BAVARIAN BELLE RIVERBOAT

Climb aboard this authentic paddlewheel riverboat for a narrated tour of Frankenmuth on the Cass River.

MICHIGAN HEROES MUSEUM

Immerse yourself in Michigan's military service history

FAMOUS CHICKEN DINNERS

Frankenmuth and classic German chicken dinners are famous. For world-famous chicken dinners give Zehnder's or Bavarian Inn Restaurant a try. Let us know which is your favorite.

FRANKENMUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Learn more about the town's history

SILENT NIGHT CHAPEL AT BRONNER'S

Step inside this chapel at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, where the sounds of "Silent Night" evoke a magical Christmas Eve feeling year-round.

WILKOMMEN PARK

This beautiful park by the roadside offers a serene escape and a chance to reconnect with nature.

BRONNER'S CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Explore the world's largest Christmas store that is open year-round.



Experience Romance & Elegance at
one of Michigan's BEST Rated
TripAdvisor Bed and Breakfast Inns.

The Historic
Webster House

A photograph of a smiling couple in wedding attire. The man, on the left, has a full red beard and glasses, wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a dark red bow tie. The woman, on the right, is wearing a white lace wedding dress and has her hair styled in an updo with pearl hair accessories. They are standing in front of a red brick building with green foliage. A dark blue banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

The Historic Webster House

BOOK YOUR
CELEBRATION,
WEDDING OR EVENT

HISTORICWEBSTERHOUSE.COM