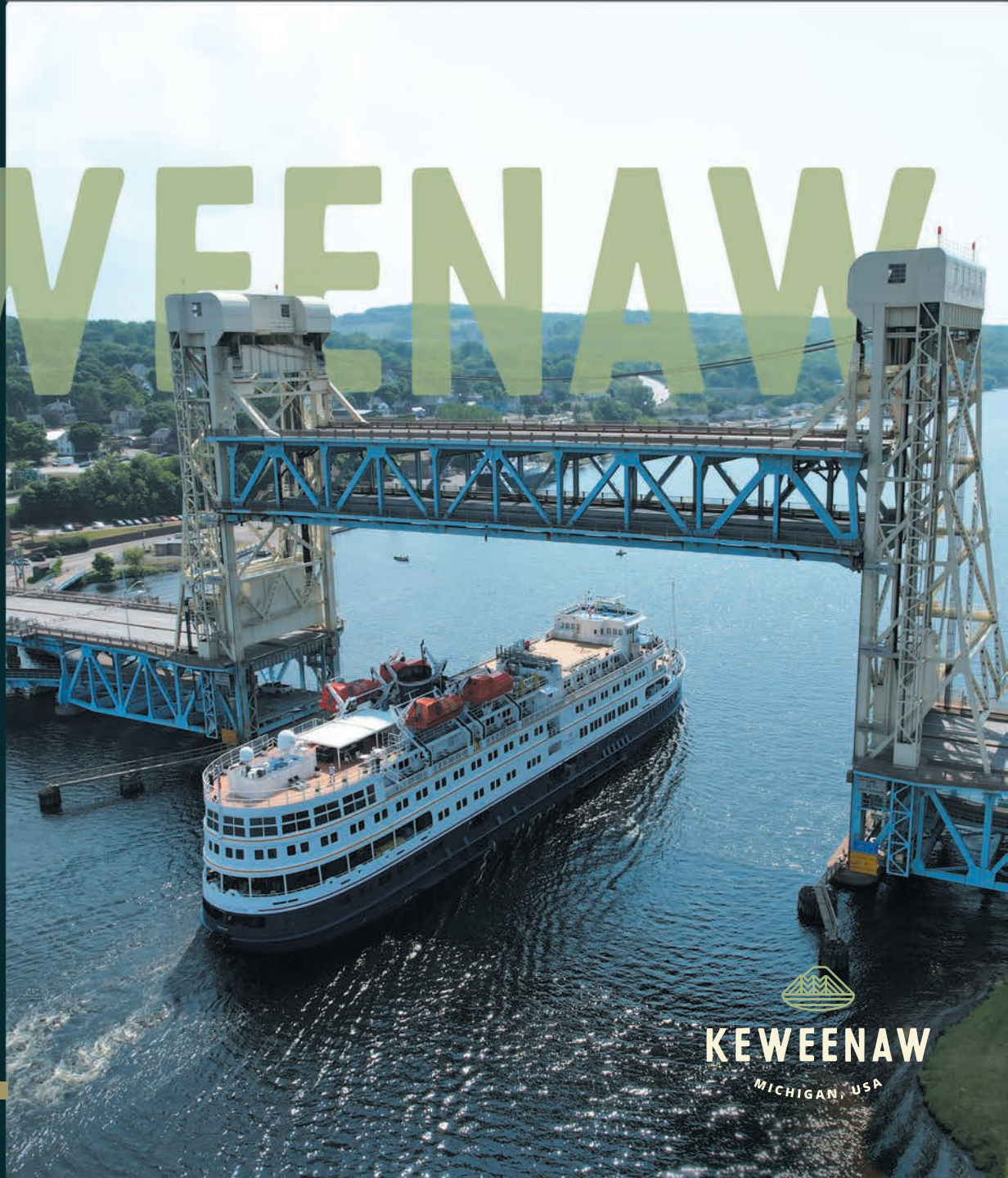


CRUISE THE

# KEWEENAW

## IN THIS GUIDE

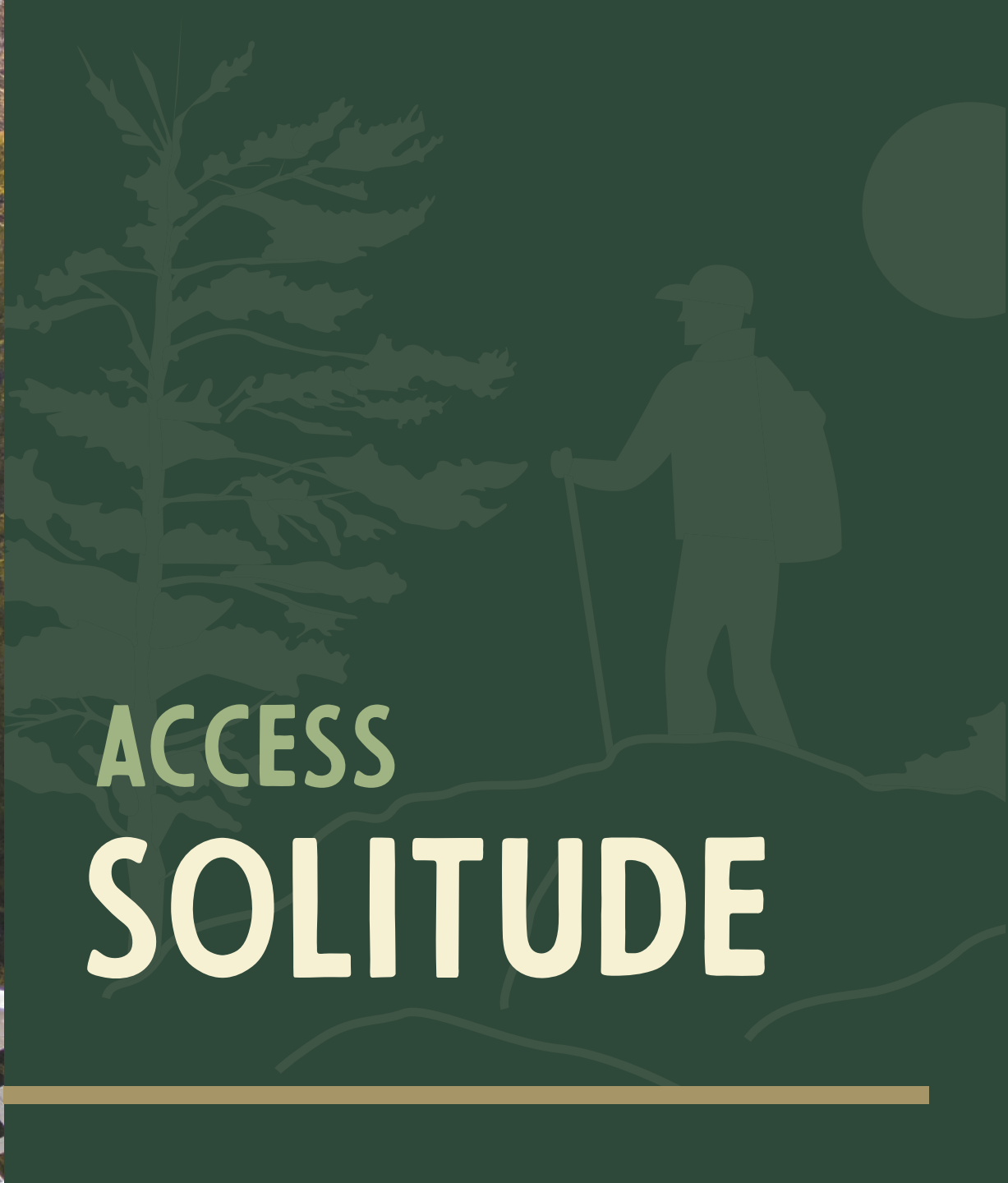
An overview of local attractions, adventures, and docking logistics



**KEWEENAW**

MICHIGAN, USA





ACCESS  
SOLITUDE

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DISCOVER  
**ADVENTURE**

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**EXPLORE**  
**NATURE**

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**EXPERIENCE  
HISTORY**





# RUGGED BEAUTY



## MYSTERY & MAJESTY

Join excursions to uncover the 6,000 years of history recorded in this region's stony landscape, where untold generations have labored to mine copper amidst towering white pines. Explore life deep underground as a miner, walk through the mansion of a former copper baron, or hike along the rocky shores of Lake Superior through preserved forests. The land and the people here are deeply intertwined—both are beautiful and rugged.

The Keweenaw Peninsula lies in the heart of Lake Superior, dotted with small towns settled during the area's copper boom spanning the 1800s and 1900s; many of which are located along the Keweenaw's 125 miles of shoreline. It beckons to all who seek the persistent mysteries of human endeavor, the soft sound of waterfalls, and the warm local culture that flourishes in cooler climates.



## WILD & FREE

Our region is home to hundreds of miles of gentle trails, countless beaches, and thousands of acres of pristine wilderness. While many visitors enjoy exploring the Keweenaw's backcountry, the area's collection of national, state, and local parks offer access to an abundant collection of natural and historical attractions all within an hour (or less) of the pier!

The Keweenaw National Historical Park plays a central role in museum preservation; along with a collection of 20+ heritage sites that allow visitors to explore the region's history and the mining industry's impact on society. Popular experiences include tours of the Quincy Mine and Delaware Mine, the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, the Calumet Theatre, and various lighthouse tours.

# DIVERSE ATTRACTIONS

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## FORT WILKINS HISTORIC STATE PARK

Located near Copper Harbor, experience mid-19th century army life on the northern frontier through exhibits, audio-visual programs, and reenactments of military life and hardships.

## INTERNATIONAL KEWEENAW DARK SKY PARK

The first International Dark Sky Park in the Upper Peninsula with 550 acres including areas around Brockway Mountain Drive that offer low light pollution, lengthened nighttime hours, and ideal terrain.

## ROZSA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Catch a show at the largest theater in Michigan's Upper Peninsula located on the Michigan Technological University campus and home of the Visual & Performing Arts Department.



## A.E. SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM

The museum is home to the most extensive collection of Michigan minerals and informative, interactive displays that allow visitors to uncover the importance of minerals in every day life.

## COPPER HARBOR TRAILS

An IMBA Silver Level Ride Center, the Copper Harbor Trails boast epic vistas, rugged trails, scenic views, and exceptional fun for mountain bike riders of all skill levels.

## ESTIVANT PINES

Traverse along on a gently rolling hike through the largest tract of old-growth Eastern White Pines preserved in Michigan ranging from 300 to 500 years old.

## GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM CRUISE RV AGASSIZ

Pull a sediment core from Portage Lake and discuss the remarkable ways that scientists study marine ecosystems and develop autonomous systems while aboard this research vessel.

## HUNGARIAN FALLS

With moderate to advanced hiking trails along both sides of the falls, the two miles of paths feature three sets of falls with opportunities for natural wildlife viewing.

## KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The park features 22 heritage sites that commemorate the heritage of copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula—the mines, machinery, and people.

## MCLAIN STATE PARK

Enjoy a variety of activities from fishing to berry picking, beachcombing, and sight-seeing all along the shores of Lake Superior on flat to wooded and hilly terrain. See where shipwrecks occurred entering the Keweenaw Waterway.

## QUINCY MINE

The two-hour tour takes visitors through the hoist house, on a cog rail tram ride, and into a 2,400-foot section of the Quincy Mine at the seventh level to see what life was like for mine workers.





# EXCURSION IMMERSION

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## NATURE IS CALLING

The Keweenaw Peninsula isn't just about history; it's an outdoor paradise with a bounty of experiences awaiting your passengers. Our world-class trails, whether for hiking, biking, or paddling, showcase the beauty and diversity of our landscapes, from lush forests to serene waterways.

We have a breadth of equipment rental dealers throughout the region that will provide your passengers with everything they need to conquer the trails or the shores on mountain bikes, ORVs, watercrafts, canoes, paddleboards, and kayaks.

Boat cruises along the scenic Keweenaw Waterway provide a different perspective of our region's breathtaking natural beauty, giving passengers the chance to spot local wildlife and admire the grandeur of Lake Superior.

## EXPLORE DOWNTOWN

Our charming historic downtown is a hub of activity and culture. Just steps from the waterfront pier, passengers can browse local boutiques, sample regional cuisine in our diverse restaurants, and enjoy the warmth of our welcoming community.

With its unique blend of history, nature, and culture, Houghton is the perfect port of call for Great Lakes Cruise Ship companies, offering a wealth of opportunities for enriching land excursions. We look forward to welcoming you and your passengers to our beautiful corner of the world.

We offer shuttle services on a loop that take passengers not only on excursions, but also through our beautiful downtown to local pharmacies, parks, churches, and delicious bakeries for savory treats.

National park rangers are further on standby to join passengers on the ship in educational opportunities and presentations about the rich cultural history and picturesque landscapes.



## ABOUT HOUGHTON

The Houghton waterfront features a deep-water pier equipped to dock cruise ships up to 400 feet long that opened in 2022. Located in the Eastern Time Zone, the port in the City of Houghton is open daily during the season from May through October.

The Portage Lake Lift Bridge offers a clearance of 100 feet which allows ships to traverse the entire Keweenaw Waterway with stunning views through the entire cruise. The waterway is also sheltered and provides a protected cruise route, with a port, in case of foul weather on Lake Superior. The largest cruise ship to dock in Houghton was the MV Ocean Explorer in 2022. Every season, private vessels ranging from 60 to 217 feet regularly port in Houghton's waterfront.

The average water temperature is 55° and a minimum depth of 12'. The region is icebound from December through April.





# GETTING HERE

## WATER CONDITIONS

Current: West to East <1 kt, changes with season

Swell: <1'

Nautical Port Chart: NOAA Chart [14972]. U.S. Coast Pilot 6: 49th Edition, 2019 - Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River – Chart #13

## DOCKING FACILITIES

All mooring is broadside:

- Kestner Park 750' (generally used by larger USCG/Research vessels)
- Houghton City Pier (NEW IN 2022) 350'+
- Bridgeview West 500'

Houghton offers MARSEC certified facilities for dock-side passenger loading and unloading, along with trained city employees to manage your day in port.





# TESTIMONIALS

**F**rom working with attractions featuring the unique geology and mining history of the area, to showcasing the natural beauty of the Keweenaw Peninsula, to developing a team of locals ready to tell the story of the community, it's been an absolute delight to develop and offer shore excursions in Houghton, MI. Consistently the feedback we hear from passengers is that they never would have thought to visit the area on their own, but after discovering the community for a day during a stop on their cruise itinerary, they intend to return - and they are returning! The community is welcoming and hungry to highlight the best of the Upper Peninsula to passengers from around the world.

**GREAT LAKES  
SHORE EXCURSIONS**

**M**ichigan's Keweenaw Peninsula is a hidden gem that offers an authentic, immersive experience into the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the Great Lakes region. As a port-of-call, it provides passengers a unique chance to explore pristine wilderness, rich maritime and mining history, and engaging local communities. With educational opportunities at unique historical sites like the Quincy Mine along with outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, and world-class mountain biking, the Keweenaw Peninsula exemplifies the pure, untamed spirit of Michigan.

**DAVE LORENZ**  
VICE PRESIDENT, TRAVEL MICHIGAN

**V**isiting the Upper Peninsula was a long-held dream come true. The experience exceeded all my expectations. Houghton served as a picturesque gateway to the U.P. The beauty of Lake Superior took my breath away with both natural splendor and deep-rooted history!

The historical architecture, the museums detailing the copper boom, and the friendly locals sharing anecdotes made me feel like I was not just a tourist, but part of a living, breathing narrative.

In Houghton, I found a piece of Michigan that was both new to me and felt like home. It's a rich experience any passenger would find rewarding.

**2023 VISITOR**



# READY FOR YOU

## BOOK YOUR PORT OF CALL TODAY

**POLLY SALMI OR ERIC WAARA**  
*City of Houghton*  
info@cityofhoughton.com  
906.482.1700

## EXPLORE EXCURSION EXPERIENCES

**BRAD BARNETT**  
*Visit Keweenaw*  
bbarnett@visitkeweenaw.com  
906.337.4579