Grand Rapids Description

400 WORDS

Expedia named Grand Rapids one of America’s Super Cool Cities in 2017. The New York Times ranked it #20 on its list of 52 Places to Go Worldwide in 2016. It was Groupon’s #1 U.S. Place to Visit in 2015 and Lonely Planet’s Top U.S. Travel Destination in 2014.

These are just a few of the recognitions the city has earned in the past few years — and just a few reasons Grand Rapids delivers an experience like no other.

Located in the western corner of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, halfway between Chicago and Detroit, Grand Rapids combines big-city cool with small-town warmth. It all begins in a safe, clean downtown, where 200+ restaurants, breweries, shops, museums and entertainment venues sit within a 10-minute walk of four-star hotels and a skywalk-connected convention center.

Expedia travel experts were swayed by the city’s awesome art, fantastic food, world-class beer and thriving live-music scene. Public art is everywhere, some of it originally installed as part of the annual ArtPrize event – the world’s richest, most radically open art competition. Downtown is home to two art museums and Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the world’s 100 most visited art museums, is just 15 minutes away.

The artistic spirit extends to the dining scene. Grand Rapids was named the world’s 2nd food & beverage destination experience by the World Food Travel Association. Local restaurants delight patrons with an astonishing variety of creative farm-to-fork cuisine and the Grand Rapids Food Trail spotlights a wide variety of delicious discoveries – such as the Downtown Market, which brings 20+ artisan food vendors, classroom kitchens and a dizzying schedule of innovative food events under one greenhouse-covered roof.

Creativity also abounds in the craft brewing community. The reigning Beer City USA titleholder and a multi-year winner of USA Today’s Best Beer Scene award, Grand Rapids boasts an “Ale Trail” of 80+ breweries. Visit eight of them to become an official Beer City Brewsader®.

Grand Rapids offers plenty of biking and hiking trails, too, along with vast stretches of parkland and dozens of excellent golf courses, all within minutes of the city center. The sugar-sand beaches and glorious sunsets of Lake Michigan – hailed as one of the world’s top 25 shorelines – are as close as 30 minutes from downtown.

All of this, plus a world-ranked airport make Grand Rapids a super fun place to visit!