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Tips For Visiting Detroit

By Sharon Stajda

All my life I have lived in Detroit. I have often struggled with where I should take visitors that come in from out of town. Detroit is not Chicago, New York, or Boston. However, if you look in the right places, there are many great sites to be seen.

To be honest, Detroit has seen better times. Growing up in the city, I remember many great things about the city that no longer exist today. However, I think the city is on the rise and there is a great future ahead. Downtown Detroit has improved and there are many more improvements in the works. For those with the entrepreneurial spirit, I think this is a great place to be.

In this article, I will give you my top ten things which you should do on your visit to Detroit.

1. The cultural minded should spend a day at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The museum has over 60,000 works of art in their collection. The collection includes paintings by Cezanne, Degas, Rembrandt, Rubens, and Warhol.
2. Visit Belle Isle. An island park, located in the Detroit River, originally designed in 1883 by Frederick Law Olmstead. He was the designer of Central Park in New York City. At the tip of the island, you will find a great view of downtown Detroit.
3. Have a hot dog at Lafayette Coney Island. A "Coney" in Detroit is a hot dog covered in chili, mustard and onions. Lafayette is the best in the city. Don't just order a dog. Make sure to include chili fries and a coke.
4. On any given Saturday, visit Eastern Market. This is the farmer's market for local area. After browsing the spectacular fruits, vegetables, meats and other food products, head over to the Russell Street Deli. The sandwiches and food cannot be beat.
5. For those animal lovers, visit the Detroit Zoo. The Zoo is not located in Detroit proper. It is located a two miles outside the city in Royal Oak. Over 3,000 animals call the zoo home. Considered a cultural gem.

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6. Now that the Detroit Tigers are contenders, take in a baseball game at the new stadium. After the game, take a trip down to the old Tigers stadium at Michigan and Trumbull. Marvel at the place where Ty Cobb once played. It may soon be gone.

7. For what I call the ruins of Detroit, visit the old Michigan Central Station. It was built in 1913 and abandoned in 1987. It is the largest train station I have ever come across. You can get a spectacular view of the building if you are coming over the Ambassador Bridge from Canada. You cannot miss the building. It is the one which has no windows.

8. Take a trip over to Windsor, Canada. It is just a short drive through the tunnel or across the Ambassador Bridge. Windsor has a nice downtown and many great restaurants. The best Italian restaurants are located on Erie Street.

9. Take a trip to the suburbs. Just outside the city, visit Ferndale, Royal Oak, and Birmingham. They are all off of the Woodward Avenue corridor. Each of these towns have a small downtown with unique boutiques and restaurants. Each one is good for an afternoon of browsing.

10. Further up the Woodward corridor, visit Cranbrook. An educational community started in the early 1900's. It features architecture by Eliel Saarinen, Albert Kahn, Steven Holl, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien and Rafael Moneo. It has been called "the most enchanted and enchanting setting in America".

I hope my tips will provide you with some ideas of things to do on your visit to Detroit. I am sure I have missed some great places. The key when visiting anywhere, get out and explore.

Sharon Stajda has been a Detroiter for life. For further information on Detroit, please visit [Detroit – The Dynamic](#).

<http://www.oldandsold.com/articles16/american-travel-5.shtml>

Detroit Schools Has A Difficult Start To The 2006–2007 School Year

By Stacy Andell

Detroit Schools' Teachers Delay School Starts with Strike

There has been a slow and turbulent start to the Detroit Schools ' new school year. In a battle over contracts, some 7,000 teachers and 2,000 staff members refused to start school in September. These contract disagreements lead finally to a court battle. The contract disagreement began on August 28 after the Teachers Union rejected a two year contract that included salary cuts of 5% and increased health insurance co-payments. Detroit Schools wants an \$88 million concession from the Detroit Schools' Teachers' Union to help with the \$105 million deficit to its \$1.36 billion budget.

On September 16, Detroit Circuit Court Judge Susan Borman ordered that the 7,000 striking Detroit Schools' teachers return to work. After this order, Detroit Teachers' Union president Janna Garrison

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read the order aloud to 3,000 Detroit Federation of Teachers members but did not comment or give any instructions as to whether the order should be obeyed. The vast majority of the teachers did not return to work.

Detroit Schools' spokesman Lekan Oguntinyinbo stated that under state law teachers who defied the order could face penalties which include fines and other actions. Oguntinyinbo said that Detroit Schools would go back to the courts and request that the order be enforced. As of the 18th of September, teachers had not returned and Detroit Schools has not decided what action it would take.

On the official first day of school, the 130,000 students in the Detroit Schools were greeted by their teachers not in the classroom but protesting outside. The picketing teachers were most of the teachers, only about 9% of Detroit Schools had returned to work. The Detroit Schools Board of Education worried that the strike would cause students to pull out of the Detroit schools and that their families will leave the city, however most parents support the teachers.

Detroit Schools' Teachers Return to Work

Even though the contract issues have not been fully resolved but the Teachers' Union has announced that the teachers returned to work on September 20. This was mainly due to pressures from the court and not due to reconciliation between the Detroit Schools and the teachers.

Many Union members, parents and other supporters of the teachers do not want the issue to remain tabled. These supporters want the Detroit Schools system revised. They claim the administration is top heavy and each position should be justified in some way. Others want the Detroit Schools to consider the consolidation of schools. This idea has fewer supporters because it would involve school closures that would greatly affect parents and neighborhoods. Even though this would be the most drastic of the possible ways to change the Detroit Schools, it may be the most cost effective. Like all issues there are many sides. Some wish the Detroit Schools to be run more like a business, which would include offering teacher buyouts, others believe education should be the main focus no matter what the costs.

Patricia Hawke is a staff writer for Schools K–12, providing free, in–depth reports on all U.S. public and private K–12 schools. For more information on Detroit schools visit

<http://www.schoolsk–12.com/michigan/detroit/index.html>



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