Outside

The Best Roadside Motels Across the U.S. for Adventure Seekers

Saugatuck Retro Resort Motel, Saugatuck, Michigan

Saugatuck Retro Resort Motel

Flamboyant midcentury design with a Jetsons futuristic flourish takes the Saugatuck Retro Resort (formerly the Saugatuck Motel) from its 1953 roots to a perennial party spot complete with fire pits, hammocks, horseshoes, shuffleboard, and the requisite kidney-shaped pool. While the décor favors blinking neon signs and vintage photos evoking Michigan's status as the Motor State, lush landscaping and shady groves lend a feeling of seclusion.

The Adventure Potential:

With 12 miles of Lake Michigan coastline, including the sun-seekers' havens of Oval and Douglas Beach, Lake Michigan takes central stage for swimmers and beach walkers, while paddlers turn inland up the Kalamazoo River and its wildlife-rich protected estuaries. Wade's Bayou offers a sheltered put-in. Road bikers favor the 24-mile Beeline Trail along the river connecting Saugatuck-Douglas with Holland or the Kal-Haven Trail State Park, where a 34-mile route connects South Haven and Kalamazoo.