



# Belle Isle Park

A Day in The D

There's an oasis of flora and fauna just minutes from Detroit's urban center. Spend a day frolicking on the city's island jewel.

**1 DAY | 3-12 HOURS**

**FEATURES**

**DESTINATIONS**

Outdoor, Sports & Recreation Downtown Detroit

**1**

## ATTRACTIONS



Visit the electric eel at the [Aquarium](#), the oldest in the country. Feed the fallow deer at the [Nature Center](#), where a fully accessible, nature-themed playground recently opened. Immerse yourself in the lush landscapes of the [Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory](#). Or get schooled on the region's maritime history at the [Dossin Great Lakes Museum](#).

**Ideas for the Isle:** Take a snapshot at the William Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse, the only marble lighthouse in the U.S., and at the picturesque Scott Memorial Fountain.



2

RECREATION



Rent bikes, kayaks, canoes, pedal boats or stand-up [paddleboards](#) on the island. Hike nature trails or run the six-mile exterior road that circles the park. Golfers can take advantage of a nine-acre outdoor practice facility and **six-hole golf course**. Fishing piers are located at both the north and south sides of the island. Ride down a giant slide, splash around at the beach or pack a picnic spread and take in serene views of the Detroit and Windsor skylines at the island's Sunset Point.

**Ideas for the Isle:** *Be sure to have a [fishing license](#) if you plan on casting a line.*



## 3 EVENTS



Insert these to-dos on your calendar. The [Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix](#) races into town June 2-4. The race's challenging street circuit is a favorite among drivers. Eyes to the skies on June 26 for the dazzling [Ford Fireworks](#). Search for treasures at the [Art Fair](#) in August. [OABI](#) (Once Around Belle Isle) — the annual kayak, paddleboard and surf-ski race and beach party — returns Aug. 12.

### About Belle Isle Park

Sitting in the international waters of the Detroit River, between the U.S. and Canada, the Isle is 2.5-miles long and 982 acres. The park, larger than New York City's Central Park, was actually designed by Central Park's landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. Almost a third of the island is a wooded home to many birds and small animals.

### Getting In

To enter the island park, Michigan residents need a Recreation Passport, which actually gets you in more than 120 Michigan state parks. The annual passport is \$11 for cars, \$5 for motorcycles. A one-day pass for nonresidents is \$9. All are sold at the gate. Entry is free for those who walk or bike onto the island.

*Photo Credits: Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and pedal boat by Michelle & Chris Gerard; aerial by Vito Palmisano; OABI by Toddstar Photography*

