



Detroit, MI



Detroit, Michigan, is located on the Detroit River, a strait that separates the U.S. from Canada. The area was founded in 1701 when the French trader Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac built Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit (the French word for “strait”) to honor his patronage. In the treaty that followed the French and Indian War, during which Detroit was a major French stronghold, the British acquired the fort and shortened its name to Detroit. Detroit later became the final stop on the Underground Railroad in the United States. In 1896, Henry Ford built his first car in the city.

Detroit’s Cultural Center Historic District is home to multiple museums, including the Detroit Institute of Arts, which displays Diego Rivera’s Detroit Industry 27-panel mural and Vincent van Gogh’s “Self-Portrait.” “America’s Motor City,” “Streets of Old Detroit,” and “Detroit and the Underground Railroad” are among the 11 signature exhibits at the Detroit Historical Museum. Collections at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History include the Blanche Coggin Underground Railroad Collection and Harriet Tubman Museum Collection. Michigan Science Center offers live stage shows, an IMAX® dome theatre, a planetarium, hands-on exhibits, and lab activities. The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit offers visual, literary, musical, and performing arts.

Elsewhere in the city, Motown Historical Museum, also known as “Hitsville U.S.A.,” features the studio where Motown’s greatest stars recorded their hits. Built in 1904, the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant exhibits over 40 early Ford- and Detroit-built automobiles. Tuskegee Airmen National Museum records the contributions of African Americans to the defense of the country and displays a World War II T-6 training plane. The Dossin Great Lakes Museum showcases the story of the Great Lakes and emphasizes Detroit’s role in regional and national maritime history. Other attractions include Historic Fort Wayne; the Heidelberg Project, which is an outdoor community art project; Pewabic, which features Arts and Crafts era and contemporary pottery; and Dabls MBAD African Bead Museum.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Broadway in Detroit are among the many opportunities for enjoying performing arts. The following venues host various performances that include concerts, plays, and shows: The Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, Detroit Opera House, Detroit Repertory Theatre, Fisher Theatre, City Theatre, PuppetART Theater, Music Hall, The Fillmore Detroit, The Majestic, and Fox Theatre. Joe Louis Arena hosts professional sports, college hockey, concerts, and ice shows. Outdoor concert venues include Comerica Park and Chene Park Amphitheatre. Scarab Club is a venue for art, music, and literature.

Wayne State University’s theater department offers undergraduate and graduate productions in their Bonstelle, Hilberry, and Studio Theatres.

Movement Electronic Music Festival is an annual electronic dance music event held during Memorial Day weekend. The Detroit Jazz Festival is held during Labor Day weekend.

Neighborhoods

The downtown Detroit Riverfront features many high-rise condominium complexes that range from restored 1920s-era luxury buildings to new communities like Harbortown, which is a mixed-use neighborhood of townhomes, condominiums, and apartments. Warehouses in the area have been converted to lofts and townhomes. Detroit’s West Side Industrial neighborhood is dominated by high rises and condominium developments along the Riverfront. Stroh River Place is a 25-acre mixed-use development of apartments, condominiums, and townhouses in historically restored buildings.

Tudor Revival is the prevailing architectural style of the 300 houses located in Palmer Woods, one of Detroit’s historic neighborhoods. Large red brick, stone, stucco, and slate homes are set back from the narrow winding streets and tree-lined sidewalks. Many architectural styles contributed to the designs of the 352 large, primarily brick or stucco, two-story Indian Village homes. Both neighborhoods were designed by leading Detroit architects at the turn of the 20th century. Most of the large 440 single-family homes in Sherwood Forest homes were built during the 1920s and 1930s in various architectural styles on winding streets with British names. North Rosedale Park offers a mix of single-family brick and stone houses in styles that include bungalow, Cape Cod, and Tudor Revivals and were primarily built from the 1920s through the 1940s.

The 78-acre Lafayette Park development was designed in the Mid-Century Modern style of architecture by Mies van der Rohe and his colleagues in the late 1950s through the 1960s. The development includes three high-rise apartment buildings, 162 townhouses, 24 courthouses, and a landscaped, 19-acre park.

Parks and Recreation

Detroit has 308 city parks and 12 recreation facilities. Park amenities include basketball and volleyball courts, soccer and football fields, ice skating rinks, swing and climbing sets, sledding hills, indoor pools, an outdoor pool and

splash pad, baseball fields, softball fields, golf courses, and marinas.

Many parks comprise the 3-mile Detroit International RiverWalk. At its eastern end, the Gabriel Richard Park features landscaping, a fountain, butterfly gardens, a labyrinth, fishing outlooks, and a birding station. The Horace E. Dodge and Son Memorial Fountain is located at the center of the 14-acre Hart Plaza, which is a venue for summer festivals, concerts, and special events. The 31-acre William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor has a wetlands demonstration area, 63-foot-tall lighthouse, fishing platforms, a memorial to Peter Stroth, and a bike path. The park’s Outdoor Adventure Center at the Globe Building offers outdoor adventures with hands-on activities, exhibits and simulators. Mt. Elliott Park & Pavilion has a Great Lakes schooner-themed water feature. Cullen Plaza contains the Cullen Family Carousel, an inlaid granite map of the Detroit River, a standing glass sculptured map of the St. Lawrence Seaway, a playscape, and fountains.

Numerous amenities are available at the 1,300-acre Rouge Park, which includes an 18-hole golf course and driving range, 14 regulation diamonds, 12 playgrounds, 11 tennis courts, 3 outdoor swimming pools, 8 miles of bicycle trail, and the Alex Jefferson Model Airplane Field. This park is also home to the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Center and stables and the 7-acre organic D-Town Farm.

Attractions at the 982-acre Belle Isle Park located in the Detroit River include The Belle Isle Aquarium; Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory; Dossin Great Lakes Museum; the James Scott Memorial Fountain; Belle Isle Nature Center; Belle Isle Boat House; a golf course; fields for softball, baseball, football, soccer, rugby, track, and handball/racquetball; a giant slide; a playground; water sports and beach.

The Detroit Zoo is home to more than 2,000 animals from 245 different species. Detroit Red Wings (hockey), Detroit Tigers (baseball), Detroit Lions (football), and Detroit Pistons (basketball) are the city’s professional sports teams.

Education

Detroit Public Schools educate more than 50,000 students in 22 elementary schools, 46 elementary/middle schools, 3 middle schools, 25 high schools/career technical schools, 2 single gender schools, and 7 special education/alternative education schools. Detroit offers community schools and Innovation Schools that offer expanded programs, such as STEAM, Montessori, and dual-language immersion.

Undergraduate and graduate degree programs are offered at four Detroit institutions of higher education. Wayne State University is a public research university that has a School of Medicine, the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and a College of Nursing. The University of Detroit Mercy is a Catholic university with a School of Dentistry, College of Health Professions, and McAuley School of Nursing. Marygrove College is an independent, Catholic, liberal arts college. The College for Creative Studies is a nonprofit, private college that focuses on art and design.

Sacred Heart Major Seminary is a Catholic institution that primarily prepares candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood. Ecumenical Theological Seminary offers degrees and certificates in religious studies.

Wayne County Community College District emphasizes occupational and career programs and traditional college and university transfer programs.

Health Care

Detroit is served by the following health care facilities:

- Children’s Hospital of Michigan: 228 licensed beds
- Henry Ford Hospital: 877 licensed beds
- Harper University Hospital: 470 licensed beds
- Hutzel Women’s Hospital: 114 licensed beds
- Vibra Hospital of Southeastern Michigan–Detroit Medical Center Campus: 28 licensed beds
- Detroit Medical Center Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan: 69 licensed beds
- Sinai-Grace Hospital: 383 licensed beds
- Detroit Receiving Hospital: 248 licensed beds
- Karmanos Cancer Center: 123 licensed beds
- Select Specialty Hospital–Northwest Detroit: 36 licensed beds

City Stats

2016

City Population	672,795
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	4,297,617
Per Capita Personal Income, Detroit–Warren–Dearborn, MI, MSA	\$48,692