

Frankenmuth, Michigan

A very Christmasy town Two-day Weekend Trip

This is the itinerary that I followed when I took my wife, Charlene, to see Frankenmuth, Michigan. The town may be small but it is big in Christmas spirit. We would start Friday night and then be home for Sunday evening.

Feel free to use this itinerary as is, or to make modifications for your own journey.

Legend:

D - Distance to next location **T** - Time to drive to next location **A** - Arrive at the actual time **S** - Stay for how long **L** - Leave at this time
PRIORITY SITE - a top destination that should not be skipped.

Friday Night:

Head toward Sarnia after finishing work. The first stop of the night is to check into the hotel, to make sure everything is good. After that, head to Bayshore Park to see the Christmas light display that the city has put up. Check out [Celebration of Lights Sarnia website](#) for homes that are Christmas decorated and follow their map to view these houses.

Saturday:

Stepping Stone Falls

It is a small walk from the parking lot to view this waterfall/dam. There is also a memorial placed by MADD at the location. Parking is found near the intersection of N Bray Rd and E Carpenter Rd.

Be sure to figure out your wake up time so you can arrive on schedule.

D: from border crossing is 116 KM T: from border crossing is 1:20 A: 9:00
S: 30 L: 9:30

Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland and **Silent Night at Bronner's**

It will be hard to miss this destination. For this time of year, it is very busy. There is more than enough parking. Be sure to check out their outside decorations and the replica chapel that had the first performance of Silent Night.

D: 31 KM T: 26 A: 10:00 S: 90 min L: 11:30

Marshall M Fredericks Sculpture Museum

A free museum featuring the works of Marshall Fredericks. Outside is some of his sculptures. Inside is the large plaster models of many of his creations. If you travel around Michigan, you will recognize many of what is exhibited here, at many other locations. There is an informative display on how they change a scale model into something much bigger.

D: 39 KM T: 31 min A: 12:00 S: 45 L: 12:45

Castle Museum of Saginaw County History

A small entry fee to see this fairly large regional museum. Several different floors and one section that looks like a downtown shopping area. You will never guess what this building used to be. (HINT: it is not a castle)

D: 13 KM T: 14 min A: 1:00 S: 90 L: 2:30

Frankenmuth

Return to Frankenmuth and find parking. This is a very popular location and parking is hard to find. Try your best to find all the gnomes in town. If you go to the visitor centre, you can win a small prize for finding them. Plus it adds something on your journey.

Frankenmuth has a lot of shops that are fun to peruse. Be sure to bring extra money for the best in gifts. Frankenmuth is also decorated for Christmas and this will become more evident when it starts to get dark. Enjoy this town and what it has to offer. There are many restaurants, stores of all kinds, museums and other attractions. For a tourist town, the shops are not anything like other tourist traps.

Be sure to check out the official [Frankenmuth website](#) for other things to see and do, like the locations of private homes that are decorated for Christmas, locations of Christmas displays and more.

D: 25 KM T: 20 A: 2:50 S: most stores stay open late for the season.

Sunday:

Meadow Brooks Hall and Gardens

Tickets start selling for their Christmas display inside this huge mansion in early October. Be sure to arrive on time from the hotel and dress nice for some really good Christmas pictures.

A: be sure to arrive with plenty of time to spare. S: 90 min

More shopping

It is Christmas after all. If you could not find what you needed in the stores in Frankenmuth, take this time to find other stores in the area before heading home.

Links:

Google map for this trip: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1enfOPWFXZ6uplOv-vswZkQXJr-hyl-w&usp=sharing>

Celebration of Lights Sarnia: <https://celebrationoflights.com>

Bronner's: <https://www.bronners.com>

Marshall M Fredericks Sculpture Museum: <https://marshallfredericks.org>

Castle Museum of Saginaw County History: <https://www.castlemuseum.org>

Frankenmuth: <https://www.frankenmuth.org>

Meadow Brooks Hall and Gardens: <https://meadowbrookhall.org>