DAY TRIP TO FAYETTE

From Escanaba · Delta County, Michigan

OTHER MINING AND OIL

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OPEN IN SEASON

A Michigan state park. The Michigan History Center runs the townsite. Its 2026 season, May 16 to October 11, has ended, and 2027 dates aren't posted yet.

The townsite's 2026 season ended on October 11, and the Michigan History Center hasn't posted its 2027 dates yet. Use the 2026 season, mid-May to mid-October, as a guide to when it usually opens, and plan this trip for then.

From Escanaba, Fayette is about an hour and a quarter each way. The Michigan History Center suggests two hours for the visitor center, the historic buildings and the overlooks, so it fits easily into a day with a picnic by the harbor.

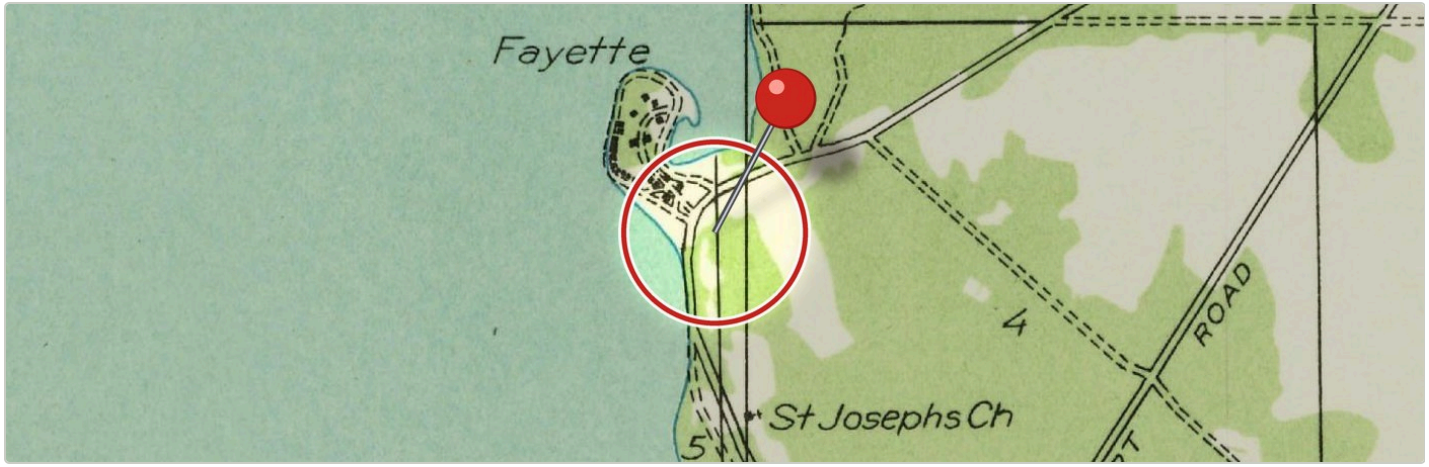
A SAMPLE DAY

☐ Morning	Leave Escanaba on US 2 east, then M-183 south, about an hour and a quarter in all.
☐ Late morning	Start at the visitor center, then walk the townsite out to the furnace complex.
☐ Midday	Picnic by the harbor.
☐ Afternoon	Take a cliff trail to an overlook for the view over the town, then head back.

This plan is for the open season. Coming from Marquette? The drive is a little over two hours each way.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The overlook.** The whole town and harbor from the cliffs, as in the photo at the top of the page.
- **Furnace complex.** The stone furnace buildings from across Snail Shell Harbor.
- **Boathouse pilings.** Old timbers standing in the clear harbor water.
- **Inside the buildings.** Several restored buildings are open in season.



USGS topographic map, 1932 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	55 mi, about 1 h 17 min each way from downtown Escanaba. From Marquette: 92 mi, about 2 h 07 min.
SEASON	The 2026 season has ended. It ran May 16 to October 11: daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for most of the season, 9 a.m. to dusk from June 19 to September 6, and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. over Memorial Day weekend. The 2027 dates weren't posted when we checked on October 21, 2026.
ADMISSION	Free. Vehicles need a Michigan Recreation Passport.
TIME ON SITE	The Michigan History Center suggests two hours for the visitor center, buildings and overlooks.
TOURS	Self-guided, with guided tours in the summer months only.
RESTROOMS	The park lists modern restrooms, and there is an accessible vault toilet in the townsite.
FOOD	The park lists a concession or store and a picnic area. The townsite has a gift shop.
WALKING	Some paths are graded, packed crushed rock. The park has 5 miles of trails along the cliffs.
ALSO HERE	A modern campground, a harbor, a boat launch and a designated swim area.
WEBSITE	michigan.gov/mhc/museums/fayette

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 45.71722, −86.66778 · 45°43′02″N 86°40′04″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/michigan/fayette/

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.