



DAY TRIP TO GLEN HAVEN

From Empire · Leelanau County, Michigan



RIVER AND
LAKE



Photo: Royalbroil, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Owned by the National Park Service as part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Museum buildings open in summer.

Glen Haven is about 10 minutes from Empire, so it fits into any day at Sleeping Bear Dunes. Pick up a pass at the visitor center in Empire, walk the village, then spend the rest of the day on the beach or the Heritage Trail. The Park Service suggests one to four hours for the village.

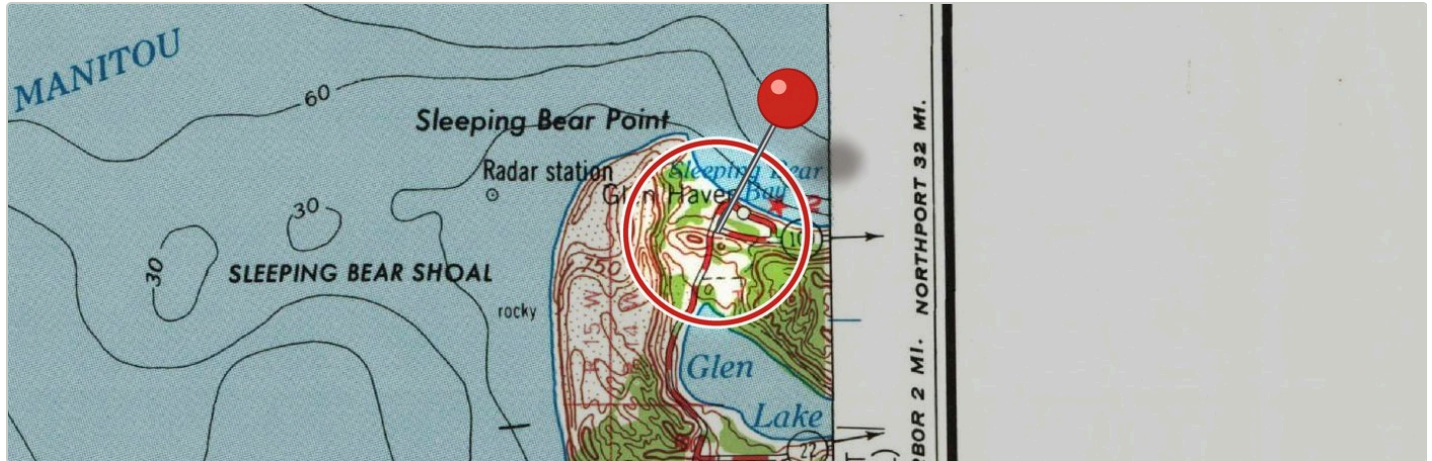
A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Stop at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center in Empire for a pass, then drive M-22 and M-109 to Glen Haven. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk the village: the general store, the blacksmith shop and the cannery boat museum. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Beach time behind the village, or a walk or ride on the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail. |

From Traverse City it's about 45 minutes each way.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The general store.** The white clapboard front with its striped awning, from across the road.
- **The forge.** A nail-making demonstration, when the blacksmith is in, makes good video.
- **The cannery.** The red Glen Haven Canning Co. building rises out of the dune grass.
- **The village road.** Looking north between the trees toward the lake.



USGS topographic map, 1954 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	7 mi, about 11 min each way from downtown Empire. From Traverse City: 29 mi, about 45 min.
ROUTE END	The drive ends where M-109 meets Dune Valley Road. The village buildings are a quarter to half a mile north, along Glen Haven Road toward the beach.
OPEN	The general store opened May 1, 2026, and runs to October 31: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from May 22. The blacksmith shop is typically open Memorial Day to Labor Day, when a volunteer blacksmith is available. Other museum spaces open in summer only.
PASS	\$25 per vehicle for 7 days; \$20 per motorcycle; \$15 per person on foot or bike. Children under 16 don't need a pass. \$45 for an annual park pass. Cashless.
WHERE TO BUY	Philip A. Hart Visitor Center, Platte River and D. H. Day campgrounds, some area businesses, or a digital pass from Recreation.gov.
TIME ON SITE	The Park Service suggests 1 to 4 hours.
RESTROOMS	Ramped, accessible public restrooms in the village, with vending machines nearby in summer.
FOOD	The general store sells snacks and souvenirs.
ACCESSIBILITY	The blacksmith shop, general store, restrooms and cannery boat museum are accessible. The Station House entrance has stairs. Sand wheelchairs are lent at the Maritime Museum boathouse and the cannery, first come, first served.
PETS	Leashed pets outside only, not in the historic buildings.
WEBSITE	nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/glen-haven.htm

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 44.89889, -86.03028 • 44°53'56"N
86°01'49"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/michigan/glen-haven/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

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