DAY TRIP TO SINGAPORE

From Saugatuck · Allegan County, Michigan

MILL, LUMBER AND COMPANY

Photo: Andrew Jameson, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

BURIED UNDER SAND

Buried by the dunes since the 1870s. No ruins are visible, and nothing marks the site.

There is no town to see at Singapore, so this is a day in Saugatuck and the dunes, which is the best way to understand what happened to it. Start at the marker in Saugatuck, walk to Lake Michigan through Saugatuck Dunes State Park, and finish at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, which publishes the town's history.

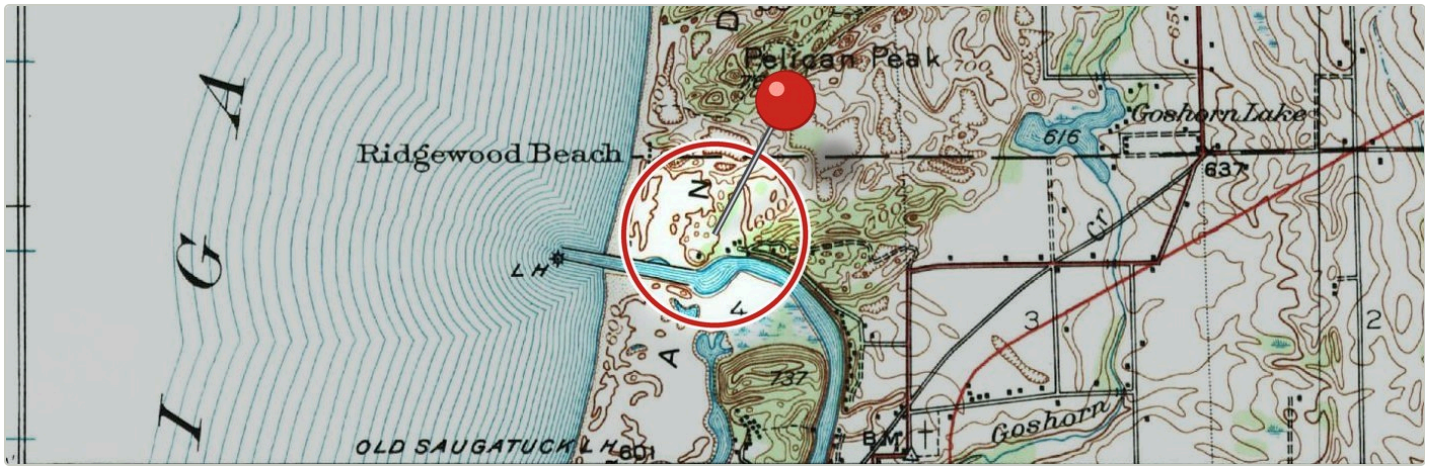
A SAMPLE DAY

☐ Morning	Find the Singapore marker at the village hall in Saugatuck, then walk Butler Street past the old bank building.
☐ Late morning	Drive north to Saugatuck Dunes State Park and walk the Beach Trail to Lake Michigan. The open sand shows how the dunes move.
☐ Midday	Lunch in Saugatuck or Douglas.
☐ Afternoon	Visit the History Center's galleries in Douglas (Friday or Saturday) or the museum at Mount Baldhead Park (weekends in fall).

From Grand Rapids it's about 50 minutes each way, an easy day trip.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The marker.** The state marker tells the town's story in a few lines.
- **Open dunes.** Low light across the sand shows the ripples the wind makes, the same force that buried Singapore.
- **The river channel.** The Kalamazoo meets Lake Michigan a short way from where the mills stood.



USGS topographic map, 1928 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	3 mi, about 9 min each way from downtown Saugatuck. From Grand Rapids: 37 mi, about 49 min.
THE TOWNSITE	Under the dunes north of the river. The drive ends on Saugatuck Beach Road at the map point, where there are no ruins, no marker and no visitor site. The stops below are in and near Saugatuck.
MARKER	Michigan historical marker in front of Saugatuck's village hall, per a 2023 article. The old bank building is nearby on Butler Street.
DUNES	Saugatuck Dunes State Park, 6575 138th Ave., Holland: 2.5 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline and 13 miles of trails. The Beach Trail is the shortest way to the lake, 0.75 mile one way. Phone 269-637-2788.
PARK PASS	The DNR says a Recreation Passport is required for vehicle entry.
RESTROOMS	The park lists vault toilets.
HISTORY CENTER	Galleries at 130 Center Street, Douglas, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The History Museum at Mount Baldhead Park, 735 Park Street, Saugatuck, keeps fall hours of Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
FOOD	The park page points to restaurants in Saugatuck, Douglas and Fenville.

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 42.67750, -86.20556 · 42°40′39″N 86°12′20″W

Directions Google Maps

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/michigan/singapore/

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