



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO *Autumn*

IN BRIGHTON, MI

TRU LIVING GROUP

FALL 2026

What fall *looks like* here

What is there to do here once summer heads out? The honest answer is the Mill Pond quiets down, the boat traffic thins out, and Brighton slows into a walkable, sweater-weather kind of town downtown.

Patios stay open a little longer, the farmers market shifts into its harvest stretch, and the trails at Huron Meadows and Kensington fill back up with people who spent July avoiding the heat.

If we haven't met yet, I'm Eric Meldrum, and I've been showing people around Brighton, MI for many years.

FALL HERE MEANS

Kensington's color tour traffic backing up Kent Lake Rd

Downtown patios staying full past sunset

Farmers market swapping produce for pumpkins and cider



Make the most of *the season*

Every year the season sneaks up the same way: one month you're still in summer mode and it's hot, the next you're outside every weekend, and then suddenly it's the holidays and snow shows up.

September

HAPPENING:

Brighton Smokin/Rock-N-Blues Festival
September 11-12

WORTH EATING:

Bourbons (patio)
Downtown

GET OUTSIDE:

Brighton Farmers Market
Downtown Brighton

October

HAPPENING:

SELCRA Barktober at the Park
October 3rd 3-6PM

WORTH EATING:

Brighton Bar & Grill
Downtown

GET OUTSIDE:

Fall color drive
Kensington Metropark

November

HAPPENING:

Holiday Glow & Christmas Market
November 21st

WORTH EATING:

Ore Creek Mountain Grill
Mt. Brighton Lodge

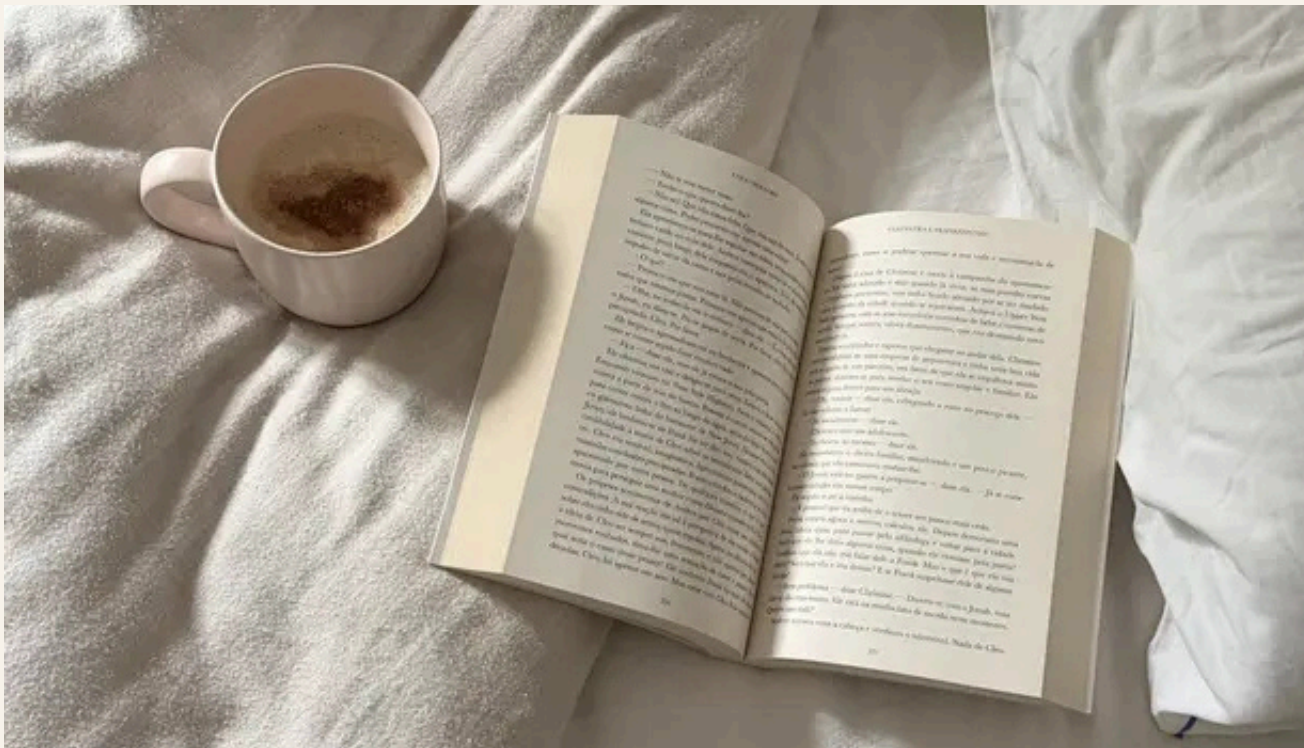
GET OUTSIDE:

Hike outside (before snowfall)
Island Lake Recreation Area



Slow mornings

The best mornings here don't always have a set plan. Coffee comes first, then wherever the rest of the day takes you.



COFFEE

Brighton Coffee House

Amazing coffee with a side of music

BREAKFAST

Lynn's on First

Cozy, no frills downtown spot with good food

BAKERY

Great Harvest Bread Co.

The smell when I walk in is heaven

QUIET SPOT

2 Dandelions Bookshop

Coffee & a good book never hurt anyone

Outside

The whole point of Fall is to end up outside for longer than you meant to.



TRAIL OR WALK

Kensington Metropark

8.5 miles of the best color you'll find all fall

LOOKOUT

Kensington Nature Center

Check out their trails with scenic vistas and overlooks

PARK

Brighton Mill Pond

Ducks, the Tridge, classic downtown Brighton

BEST PATIO

Stillwater Grill

Rooftop seating with a downtown view

With the kids

Weekends with kids flow easier when you already know where you're going and what you're doing.



WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Spicer Orchards & Cider Mill

Pumpkin picking, cider donuts (yum), hayrides and more

PARK

Imagination Station

Playgrounds and ducks to keep the kids entertained

TREAT STOP

Jackie's Custard Co.

Next to Imagination Station and perfect for kids

DOG FRIENDLY

Arise Community Dog Park

Free & fenced in. Close by in Pinckney

After dark

Evenings are way better in the Fall. Here are a few spots where I'd spend a free night.



DINNER

Single Barrel Social

Dry-aged steaks and a Bourbon list

DESSERT

Blank Slate Creamery

Top of Bern's- 50+ desserts + music. Can't be beat.

DRINKS

The Canopy Lounge

Cocktails next to a fireplace

LIVE MUSIC

Brighton Center for the Performing Arts

Great acts right on the high school campus

When people visit

When someone is in town for a weekend, this is the short list I hand them.



FIRST STOP

Brighton Mill Pond

It's the town's orbit, so it's a must-visit.

THE VIEW

Rooftop at Stillwater Grill

You get the Mill Pond and downtown all in one view

THE ONE MEAL

Single Barrel Social

Too delicious to not treat a friend to.

ONLY HERE

The Tridge at Mill Pond

The three-way wooden bridge that most people will have no idea what it is.

EVERY YEAR

Traditions

The things locals look forward to every fall.

Brighton Smokin' Rock-N-Blues Festival

Downtown fills with BBQ and live music

Destination Stars Hollow

Downtown turns into the lovable town of Gilmore Girls

SELCRA Barktober At The Park

Dogs and owners come together for costume contests and pup cups

Brighton Bulldogs Friday Night Football

Town ritual on Friday nights

Brighton Blues Bash

Best blues musicians take the BCPA stage

Growl-er Brewfest

LivCo's dog-friendly craft beer tasting

Brighton Farmers Market

Saturday mornings feel like fall with pumpkins

Holiday Glow & Christmas Market

Main street's traditional holiday kickoff



DON'T MISS THESE

The *Fall* bucket list

- ☐ Watch the leaves turn along Kensington's Kent Lake Loop
- ☐ Pumpkin pick at Spicer Orchards & Cider Mill
- ☐ Catch a Bulldogs Friday night football game
- ☐ Cider donut from Great Harvest Bread Co.
- ☐ Wear a sweater to Downtown Brighton Farmers Market
- ☐ Bring your dog to SELCRA Barktober at the Park
- ☐ BBQ and blues at Smokin' Rock-N-Blues Festival
- ☐ Steak dinner at Single Barrel Social
- ☐ Coffee at Brighton Coffee House & Theater
- ☐ Slow walk around the Mill Pond
- ☐ Cocktails by the fire at The Canopy Lounge
- ☐ Read a book from 2 Dandelions Bookshop
- ☐ Custard stop at Jackie's Custard Co.
- ☐ Shop the Holiday Glow & Christmas Market
- ☐ Carve a pumpkin from your own patch trip
- ☐ Hike till it gets dark, then get cozy
- ☐ Make a fall playlist for the drive home



Weekend trips

Frankenmuth

DRIVE TIME

1 hour

KNOWN FOR

"Michigan's Little Bavaria." Chicken dinners and harvest festivals

WORTH THE STOP

Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, open and full-tilt well before the holidays hit

Saugatuck

DRIVE TIME

2.25 hours

KNOWN FOR

A cozy harbor town on Lake Michigan with galleries and dunes

WORTH THE STOP

The Saugatuck Chain Ferry across the Kalamazoo River, still hand-cranked

Traverse City

DRIVE TIME

3.5 hours

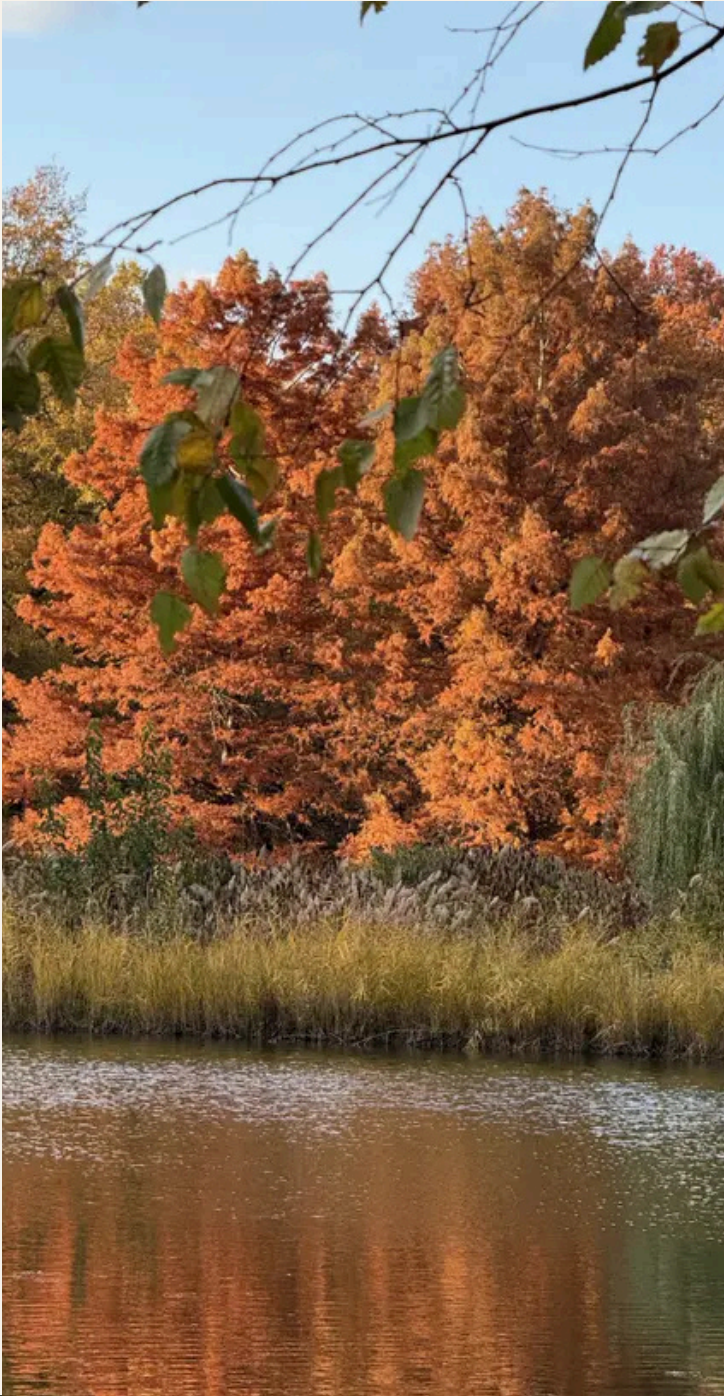
KNOWN FOR

Michigan's wine country, cherry orchards, and Lake Michigan foliage

WORTH THE STOP

Leelanau Peninsula wine trail, a local's fall-color drive by car





Hey there, we are Tru Living Group

BRIGHTON, MI LOCAL REAL ESTATE GROUP

We love sharing about all the things that make Brighton, MI special. I hope you learned something new in this guide!

If you're looking for more local happenings, sign up for our newsletter [HERE](#).

If you have questions about moving to or within Brighton, connect with us below.

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Let's talk

Thinking about a move before the year turns?
Start here.

[SCHEDULE A CALL](#)