

Woodward Avenue (M-1) - Automotive Heritage Trail

If Broadway = Theater and Rodeo Drive = High Fashion and Jewelry, then Woodward = the Automobile. The Motor City, and in particular, Woodward Avenue, put the world on wheels. America's automobile heritage is represented along this byway in famed industrial complexes, office buildings, residential mansions, world-renowned museums, and cultural institutions.

Length: 27 miles / 43.2 km

Time One hour to visit the entire
to byway or three to five days
Allow: to enjoy the attractions



Local Information

Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau

313-202-1800

1-800-DETROIT (338-7648)

Send E-mail

Visitor Services



Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

Woodward Avenue has six major central business districts, three major cultural centers and numerous other activity centers. The business districts of Detroit, Highland Park, Ferndale, Royal Oak, Birmingham, and Pontiac have superior facilities for accommodating pedestrians. The cultural centers in Detroit and Bloomfield Hills also allow for, and encourage, pedestrian travel. Many of the communities in the corridor are actively involved in the Walkable Communities program sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Sidewalks line the majority of Woodward Avenue from the Detroit River to Quarton (16 Mile) and from Square Lake Road (22 Mile) to

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Pontiac. Portions of a bike-way system have been developed or are under development including along the River and in the Mid-town area.

Food



Restaurants carrying a wide variety of food from American to Asian to Ethiopian are found in towns all along the byway. These restaurants can be found in Pontiac, Birmingham, Berkley, Royal Oak, Detroit, and Ferndale.

Gasoline



Gas stations can be found in the towns all along the byway. These towns are Pontiac, Birmingham, Berkley, Royal Oak, Detroit, and Ferndale.

Information



The following businesses offer local information and publications for Detroit and Woodward Avenue: * The [Detroit Metro Convention & Visitor Bureau](<http://www.visitdetroit.com>) at 211 W. Fort St in Detroit is open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. * The Detroit Mexican Town International Welcome Center at 20th and Bagley St. is open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m, 7 days a week. * The Downtown Welcome Center at 1253 Woodward is open 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Lodging



A variety of lodging, ranging from motels to four-star hotels, are available along the byway, especially in the cities of Pontiac, Birmingham, and Detroit.

Phone



Pay phones are available at many locations along the byway, typically near shopping centers and gas stations.

Restrooms



Public restrooms may be found at several locations along the byway.

Retail



You'll find plenty of excellent shopping in Pontiac, Birmingham, Berkley, Royal Oak, Detroit, and Ferndale.

Special Considerations

Since the byway passes through downtown Detroit, travelers should avoid rush hour. When crossing the border into Canada, remember that passports are required.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Byway attractions have extended hours of operation from May - August.

High Season

The busiest months are August because of the Dream Cruise event and November because of America's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Woodward Avenue also experiences “rush hour” traffic as is expected on any urban roadway.

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Map and Directions

Standard Map - Middle Section (Chicago Blvd/Davison Fwy. Area to Downtown Detroit)



Woodward Avenue (M-1) - Automotive Heritage Trail

Standard Map - North Section (Pontiac to Davison Freeway)



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Standard Map - South Section (Downtown Detroit)



Legend:

■ Point of Interest	▲ Campground	— Featured Byway	— Water	— State Border
🌲 Park	⛺ Picnic/Rest Area	— America's Byways	— Wildlife Refuge	— Urban Area
ⓧ Mountain	🛣️ Interstate	— Other Byway	— Wilderness Area	— Tribal Nation
⊙ City	🛣️ U.S. Highway	— Other Road	— Other Federal Lands	— Military Base
★ Capital	🛣️ State Highway	— Trail	— Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

Woodward Avenue is located in Southeast Michigan. The road begins at the Detroit River in the City of Detroit and continues in a northwest direction terminating in a loop in the City of Pontiac.

- Begin driving northwest on Woodward Avenue from its start at the Detroit/Windsor Tunnel by the Detroit River.
- Continue northwest along Woodward Avenue until you reach the town of Pontiac, where the byway ends.

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Getting to the Byway



Nearby airports

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW), MI
(18.5 miles / 29.77 km, 30 minutes)

Start: ✈ Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport
N 42.213° W 83.349° [?]

Directions:

- From the airport, head north on John D. Dingell Drive/Rogell Drive.
- Merge onto I-94 E via the ramp to Detroit. Continue northeast on I-94.
- Take exit 215C for MI-1/Woodward Avenue and head toward John Street.
- Turn right at John Street, then turn right onto Hendrie Street.
- From Hendrie Street, turn right and merge onto MI-1/Woodward Avenue.

Junction with byway: * Intersection of Hendrie St. and Woodward Ave.
N 42.363° W 83.068° [?]



Nearby cities

Ann Arbor, MI (41 miles / 65.98 km, 39 minutes)

Start: ● I-94 eastbound, Ann Arbor, MI
N 42.237° W 83.740° [?]

Directions:

- Take I-94 east to Detroit.
- Merge onto I-75 and go southeast to Mack Ave.
- Follow Mack Ave. southwest to Woodward Avenue.

Junction with byway: * Intersection of Mack Ave. and Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
N 42.347° W 83.058° [?]



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**Road Trip:
Downtown Detroit Tour****Departure:** Hart Plaza, Michigan**Destination:** Fox Theatre, Michigan**Time to allow:** 1 day

Spend the day in vibrant downtown Detroit. Walk along the Detroit River and read about the history of the area. People-watch among the statues and musical dancing fountains in Hart Plaza and Campus Martius Parks. Into sports? Take tours at the homes of the Detroit Lions and the Detroit Tigers. All this and more in a compact area of downtown Detroit.

Day 1**• Start: Hart Plaza****Suggested time at this stop:**

1 hour

Start your visit to the heart of Detroit's downtown at Hart Plaza at the southern end of Woodward Avenue. If you drove, park your car at one of the metered areas between Hart Plaza and General Motors Renaissance Plaza, then stroll down to the Detroit International Riverfront, newly opened in the summer of 2007. Sculptures, a charming carousel, and dancing musical fountains will add color and music to your walk along the Detroit River.

Major festival events held here have included the Electronic Music/Techno Festival, Praise Fest, African World Festival, and the Detroit International Jazz Festival.

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- **Stop 2: General Motors Renaissance Center**

From previous stop: 5 minutes / 0.25 mi (0.4 km)
Directions: Right next door to Hart Plaza.
Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

From Hart Plaza stroll up through the first floor of the five-story Wintergarden atrium to the General Motors Renaissance Center. Here you can browse the many specialty stores, pick up a bite or two at one of the restaurants and admire the central tower, the tallest all-hotel skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere (the Detroit Marriott.)

While you are here take a tour of GM World, a showcase of GM vehicles. Admission is free to this interactive exhibit. Of the 26 vehicles displayed there, many have never been seen in North America.

- **Stop 3: Joe Lewis Fist Sculpture**



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 0.25 mi (0.4 km)
Directions: Walk west 1 block on Jefferson to its intersection with Woodward Ave.
Suggested time at this stop: 5 minutes

On your walk to Woodward Avenue, you can't help seeing this eye-catching 24-foot sculpture situated on an island in the middle of the intersection. This sculpture of a long arm and fist suspended above street level was done in 1986 by Robert Graham to honor heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis. Sports Illustrated donated it to the City of Detroit.

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• Stop 4: Spirit of Detroit Monument



From previous stop: 1 minute / 0.1 mi (0.2 km)

stop:

Directions: Cross Jefferson Avenue on Woodward Avenue to reach the northeast corner of the intersection.

Suggested time 5 minutes

at this stop:

On the corner of the intersection stands Detroit's best-known outdoor sculpture. Usually the sculpture is unadorned, but when sports fever is high, you may see this statue wearing an over-sized team jersey from one of the local teams.

This \$40,000 bronze statue was created by Marshall Fredericks, commissioned in 1955, and dedicated in 1958. The huge seated figure holds in his left hand a gilt bronze sphere emanating rays to symbolize God, and in his right hand, a family group symbolic of all human relationships. Fredericks never named the *Spirit of Detroit*, but as his theme he used a verse from the Bible (2 Corinthians 3:17): "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

• Stop 5: Campus Martius Park



From previous stop: 10 minutes / 0.5 mi (0.8 km)

Directions: Walk three blocks north on Woodward Avenue.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Many roads converge at this large park which is surrounded by Woodward Avenue. If you arrive at lunchtime or on the weekend, chances are you'll find something going on, even in the winter. Depending on the season, you can enjoy themed gardens, refreshing musical fountains, free concerts, ice skating, and the many monuments, statues and sculptures.

The next stop is several blocks away. At this point in this tour, you may want to return to your car and move it.

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• Stop 6: Grand Circus Park

From previous stop: 30 minutes / 0.3 mi (0.5 km)

Directions: Drive north on Woodward Avenue past Campus Martius Park for four blocks. Park at street-side parking or one of the nearby parking garages.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Completely surrounded by buildings, this large, semi-circular park provides a welcome break from the glass and steel of downtown Detroit. Along with trees and flowers, the park has many statues of civic figures, such as the first mayor of Detroit, as well as fountains, walkways and benches.

Walk south to the corner of Woodward Ave. and Witherall St.

• Stop 7: Detroit Opera House



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 0.1 mi (0.2 km)

Directions: Go to the intersection of Woodward Ave. and Witherell Street. Cross Witherell Street. The Detroit Opera House is on Witherell Street and faces Grand Circus Park.

Suggested time at this stop: 15 minutes

If you visit during the day, the Opera House may not be open. Walk by and see what is playing, or admire the brick and concrete structure, which was designed by Detroit-based architect C. Howard Crane. Crane also designed the Fox Theatre, which is a few blocks north of here.

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• Stop 8: Ford Field



From previous stop: 15 minutes / 0.25 mi (0.4 km)

Directions:

Walk along Witherell Street which curves to the north. Turn right at Adams Avenue. Walk two blocks east to Brush Street.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour 30 minutes

stop:

Here two sports venues face each other across Brush Street. On the east is Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions. On the west is Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers.

At Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions NFL team, you can purchase tickets to attend a football game or a concert, or take a tour. Get a peek at a Ford Field suite, an NFL locker room, and walk down the tunnel to the field and stand on the turf for a player's view of the stadium. The tours are held twice daily, check <http://www.fordfield.com> for times and prices.

• Stop 9: Comerica Park



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 0.12 mi (0.2 km)

Directions:

Walk across Brush Street to the west.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

This new baseball stadium is home to the Detroit Tigers and features the largest scoreboard in baseball. There's plenty to do here besides watching a baseball game! You and your kids can ride the carousel or the Ferris wheel, browse Tigers merchandise, dine at one of the many restaurants, look at the statues of sports figures, walk through the Walk of Fame, or watch the amazing water fountain on the centerfield wall. Take the public tour to see the visitor's clubhouse and dugout, the Ernie Harwell Media Center, the Party Suite, the batting tunnel, and more. The tours run three days a week from June through September.

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- **End: Fox Theatre**

From previous stop: 10 minutes / 0.5 mi (0.8 km)

Directions: Starting at Adams and Brush, walk west two blocks and cross Woodward Avenue. Go north two blocks and turn left (west) on Montcalm St.

Suggested time at this stop: 15 minutes

Facing Montcalm Street to the north is the Fox Theater, your final stop on this tour of downtown.

This elegant theater was built in 1928 and is the largest surviving "motion picture palace" in the U.S. It has been a venue of American entertainment history, holding the distinction of being the Nation's largest continuously operating theater.

If you parked at Grand Circus Park, walk south on Woodward Avenue to return to your car and the end of this tour of downtown Detroit.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 2.37 miles / 3.8 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 26 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours 40 minutes