

Northern lower Michigan stores offers an array of gift ideas

The holiday season isn't just fast approaching us. It's here. In the northern lower Michigan region, there are plenty of specialty stores that carry items that reflect the flavor and scenic beauty of the area.

There is a diverse range of goods available made by local artisans and crafters from materials indigenous to the area.

If you're giving a gift to someone who lives out of northern Michigan, you might want to consider choosing something from here that they're not likely to be able to purchase in their own hometown.

This is just a sample of what awaits you as you begin your holiday shopping. And when in doubt, gift certificates are always appreciated.

Traverse City Pavlova Spa Salon (941-5707) A European spa salon, Pavlova has options for

hair, color, waxing, brow and lash, make-up, nails, massage, skin care, body treatments, spa and group packages, hair extensions, permanent make-up, handmade jewelry and hair pieces. Brand new is Pavlova Teens, which is offered every Sunday from 12 - 5 p.m. and caters exclusively to 12-19-year-olds.

Burritt's Fresh Markets (946-3300) A specialty fresh meat and fish market with gourmet food items and everything to make a festive or everyday meal complete, Burritt's is a busy place during the holidays. They carry a number of seasonal items and can also handle custom orders, both large and small. There is also a well-chosen inventory of wines and other beverages, organic vegetables, locally made breads, cheeses and more.

Rainbow Book Store (946-8800) With the largest selection of Bibles and Bible

software north of Grand Rapids, Rainbow Books also carries anything and everything relative to Christian holiday worship and observance, such as Advent wreaths and candles, musical programs for churches, hymn and song books, cards, videos and CDs. They have a large home school department, an extensive gift collection for people like ministers and teachers, and provide services such as free imprinting of a name on a purchased Bible.

Evergreen Gallery (929-9522) Located in downtown Traverse City next to Mary's Kitchen Port, Evergreen is known for carrying all kinds of artwork by Michigan artists, including jewelry, pewter, handmade paper, watercolors and more. This year, they'll be offering an expanded selection of handmade and designed 6 x 8 inch wall tiles appropriate for display or other func-

tional uses and custom orders can be easily handled. Evergreen also prides themselves on their pottery collection, and carry vases to bread bakers.

By the Bay (933-4460) New to downtown, this gallery has nautical fine art, a collection of original and limited edition prints, many boat models and nautical books. Of growing interest is a wide selection of relief maps of different lakes in the area made by Midwest-based artists. Custom orders of other lakes can also be made.

Acme to Elk Rapids Stained Glass Cabinet Company (938-2007) You can find stained glass in all forms, along with many handmade wooden items here. This holiday season, they'll be creating a large number of Michigan wild-flower sun catchers that have dried flowers and a cherry blossom in the glass

and are designed in shape of Christmas trees. These have been popular sellers in previous years and are considered very utilitarian gifts, even for the hard-to-please. Their other signature item is boxes made out of Michigan red oak, with wild flowers incorporated into the design.

Outdoor Adventures (938-9779) With their array of down comforters, pillows and more, Outdoor Adventures makes for a welcome stop during the colder months. For the holidays, they have a number of seasonally-themed items, but their inventory changes constantly. Big sellers for both the holidays and the winter-time are their lines of sweaters for men and women, along with hats, scarfs and down mittens (available in sets) and comfy socks.

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