

# Grand Rapids, Michigan: “Dream Grand and Go – No Ordinary Town”

By Convention Chairperson: Maria Tsakoff Makowski

What a great city to enjoy for every one of all ages! The Amway Grand Plaza is West Michigan’s largest complete hotel/convention complex where every stay is marked by a memorable moment. Whether it’s a stroll through the historic Pantlind Lobby, the classical architecture, or your first bite at one of the seven restaurants and lounges. You too will agree that the Amway Grand Plaza is much more than a hotel, it’s a true destination. When does the hotel become the destination? When the moment you walk through the door you feel as if you’ve been transported – by the elegance of the lobby, the details and the gracious service.

Right inside the Amway Grand Plaza, the wildly different and delicious dining options from comfy to casually elegant, guests can choose without ever having to step outside of the hotel:

- **Ruth’s Chris Steak House** – Outstanding steaks, seafood, classic sides and homemade desserts that satisfy any craving.
- **The Kitchen by Wolfgang Puck** – Known for his genuine love of craft, gourmet pizzas, salads, appetizers, noodles and entrées.
- **Rendezvous** – Relax with the delicious breakfast buffet in the morning or drinks in the evening. Excellent location for gathering with friends and family.



*Grand Rapids Downtown Market*

- **The Kitchen Counter** – Quick and delicious, The Kitchen Counter serves freshly baked and made-to-order breakfast and lunch items.
- **MDRD** – On the 27<sup>th</sup> floor of the Amway Grand Plaza, relish the captivating scenery at a table with panoramic views of the Grand River. Revel in the rhythm of Madrid as you savor the modern Spanish cuisine. |
- **Starbucks Coffee** – Makes the perfect location to savor a large selection of specialty coffee drinks, teas, sandwiches and more.
- **Lumber Baron Bar** – Let’s settle into the warmth and charm of a historic bar – complete with leather chairs and large selection of premium drinks and appetizers.

The hotel lobby has a few boutique stores: Grand Kids (Kids store), Emmanuel (women’s boutique), and Plaza Essentials Gift Shop. Don’t forget Woodrow’s Duckpin which features seven duckpin bowling lanes, with large television displays, cocktails, craft beer and wine. Last but not least a great pool and fitness center and a roof top Pickle ball court!

Now for venturing outside of the hotel there is so many area attractions within walking distance. You will discover over 100 restaurants and lounges that feature fine cuisine, ethic dining and fast food. Grand Rapids has been named Beer City USA two years in a row.

Below are attractions that are a short walk from the hotel:

- **Grand Rapids Public Museum**
- **Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum**
- **Grand Rapids Children’s Museum**
- **Grand Rapids Art Museum**

Below are attractions that require a short car ride:

- **Downtown Market** – 20 minute walk but take a car if you plan on bringing stuff back.
- **Tanger Outlet Shopping Center** – 15 minute car ride.
- **Frederik Meijer Gardens** – 10 minute car ride.
- **John Ball Zoo** – 10 minute car ride.

You can do a day trip and within an



*Grand Rapids skyline*



*Historic downtown of Grand Rapids*

hour you can visit the following cities by car:

- **Holland, MI** – Rich in Dutch heritage. The attraction to see is Windmill Island. Downtown Holland is one of the nicest area for walking, shopping and dining.
- **Saugatuck, MI** – A picturesque lakeshore community offers shopping, antiques and take a ride on the Star of Saugatuck II paddle boat.
- **Grand Haven, MI** – You can stroll or take a trolley ride along the boardwalk from the downtown shopping district out to the sparkling Lake Michigan beachfront.

What a great city to tour during the day and in the evening attend our Friday, Saturday and Sunday Dances. Why not come a day early and make it a family vacation while attending the MPO 103<sup>rd</sup> Convention!

More details will follow each month, so starting planning and gather your family and friends together to attend the MPO Convention! Let’s celebrate the weekend together as we embrace our culture and heritage over Labor Day Weekend 2024! **Save the Dates:** Friday, August 30th, Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.