

THE WONDERS OF MICHIGAN
FEATURING A ONE-NIGHT STAY AT THE GRAND HOTEL
6 Days/5 Nights August 12-17, 2024

Your Tour Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation. 5 Nights' Accommodations, Full Time Tour Director, Luggage Handling for One Suitcase Not to Exceed 50#, Taxes and Gratuities on Included Accommodations, Attractions, Step on Guides and Meals

Not Included: Travel Protection Plan, Gratuities to Tri-State Travel Tour Director and Motorcoach Driver or Items of a Personal Nature

DAY 1: Monday, August 12, 2024

Welcome aboard as we get acquainted with our fellow travelers while enjoying activities onboard our deluxe motorcoach. We change to Eastern Daylight Savings Time before we check into our Muskegon, MI hotel for the night. This evening admission and dinner are included aboard the USS LST 393. LST stands for landing ship tank (or as many soldiers called it a long slow target). The LST 393 was in many battles including D Day and is one of two remaining after the war. This is a ship museum that honors all veterans throughout the ship. You may go through the ship after your dinner. Most of the artifacts are on the tank deck (main floor). Someone will talk about the ship and answer any questions during the meal. (D)
OVN: Muskegon, MI

DAY 2: Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Breakfast is included at the hotel before we depart for Sleeping Bear Dunes and the Philip A Hart Visitor Center. Upon our arrival we are joined by a local guide who will share with us the world-class vistas of Michigan that are simply spectacular. It is no wonder in that in 2011 Good Morning America's viewers voted Sleeping Bear Dunes "The Most Beautiful Place in America." It is time to continue our travels to Traverse City, MI. Lunch on own downtown Traverse City. Be sure to take a minute to visit Traverse City's Cherry Republic. Located right on Front Street, the Traverse City location opened in 2007 and features homemade ice cream and cherry pie. The store's beautiful natural wood accents, and generous sample stations will make you feel right at home! We now depart for Kilwin's Chocolate Kitchen in Petoskey, MI. When they opened for business in 1947, Don and Katy Kilwin's desire was simple – to make the very best products that they possibly could. There are easier, quicker, and less expensive ways to make it, but they still hand-make these products because the quality is better. The tour of Kilwin's will be dependent on what regulators allow at the time of the tour. We meet your guide for a tour of Petoskey who will provide an educational, informative and fun tour of the Petoskey downtown area, the historic Bay View Association, the Bay Harbor community and the Little Traverse Bay waterfront. Learn about the native American residents, the earliest white settlers, the impact of the railroad and how Petoskey as we know it came to be. Learn about Ernest Hemingway's

connection to the Petoskey Area and how Petoskey got its moniker as the “Land of the Million Dollar Sunsets” which is still used today. Arrive Stafford’s Perry Hotel for an included dinner. For over 122 years, the Perry Hotel has proudly stood at the corner of Bay and Lewis streets, overlooking Little Traverse Bay; welcoming visitors to the crown jewel of Michigan’s “Gold Coast.” Join in the heritage of its hospitality. Enjoy the restored elegance of the main lobby and of course the breathtaking vistas that first gave inspiration to the expression “Million Dollar Sunset” for which Petoskey is now famous. With Mother Nature’s cooperation, you will be able to experience one of those sunsets. Following dinner depart for Stafford’s Crooked River Lodge & Suites. (B,D)

OVN: Alanson, MI

DAY 3: Wednesday, August 14, 2024

After breakfast we depart for Mackinaw City. We meet our local guide, Mike Fornes, at The Outdoor Adventure Store in

Mackinaw Crossings for a tour across the Mackinac Bridge. At one time this was the longest suspension bridge in the world. Hear the dramatic tales of the brave iron workers who built this massive structure. Your guide will provide more than hearsay – in many cases these are eyewitness accounts of local history. We board Sheplers Ferry to Mackinac Island. As you step upon the island you will feel like you have stepped back in time. Horse drawn vehicles transport everything from supplies for the business on the island to passengers. We taxi to the Grand Hotel for a tour, lunch and our overnight accommodations. For 135 years, the Grand Hotel has overlooked the Straits of Mackinac. It has been the setting for Hollywood films, and a favorite vacation spot each summer. The Grand Hotel has been named a national historic landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Now go behind the scenes at this idyllic resort with author Mike Fornes. Travel back to the past as Mike reveals its iconic history and be amazed at today’s world of Mackinac Island finery. Visit the many elegant gift shops on the hotel’s lobby level. See memorabilia and displays from the two films Hollywood created with Grand Hotel as a backdrop – 1947’s “This Time for Keeps,” starring Jimmy Durante and swimming star Esther Williams, and the 1979 romantic fantasy drama “Somewhere in Time,” that featured Christopher Reeve, Jane Seymour and Christopher Plummer. Expect the unusual with behind-the-scenes production stories! Continue outdoors, famous for exotic landscaping, many varieties of flowers and the Esther Williams Swimming Pool. Discover a particularly photogenic stop in the Secret Garden. After lunch we board a horse drawn carriage for a tour of the island. For anyone who has seen the movie “Somewhere in Time” there will be moments of déjà vu during the tour of this picturesque island. The tour concludes at the Grand Hotel where you will get an orientation and your room keys. Since you are staying at the Grand Hotel there is a dress code: Dress code at the Grand Hotel: Because every evening at Grand Hotel is a special occasion, after 6:30 PM in main areas of the hotel dresses, skirts, blouses, dress sweaters, and dress slacks for ladies are preferred, while gentlemen are required to wear a suit or sport coat, necktie, and dress pants (no denim or shorts). This applies for all areas inside the hotel including the Parlor, Lobby, Terrace, and Main Dining Room, with the exception of the Cupola Bar. (B,L)

OVN: Mackinac Island, MI

DAY 4: Thursday, August 15, 2024

Breakfast is included at the Grand Hotel. Following breakfast, take some time to relax on the hotel's porch. At 660 feet, the Grand Hotel's Front Porch is the world's largest and has one of the most spectacular views of the straits. Wander down Main Street and visit some of Mackinac Island's unique shops. Be sure to taste some of the famous Mackinac fudge. Lunch (on own) on Mackinac Island before departing Mackinac Island for the mainland. Our travels continue as we make our way to the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Experience the Shipwreck Century as you battle the fury of a Lake Huron storm aboard a 19th-century schooner. Explore a shipwreck without getting wet! Board a glass bottom boat and explore the shipwrecks of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The crystal-clear waters and large 'glass bottom' viewing wells allow you to dive the wrecks – without getting wet. During the cruise you will experience the magnificently preserved shipwrecks and the scenic shorelines of Thunder Bay. Learn the exciting tales of many famous ships and the history, legends and lore of Lake Huron. Arrive Thunder Bay Resort. This family run resort offers the beauty of Northern Michigan combined with a friendly staff to give you a matchless Northern Michigan experience. This evening step back in time as you board a horse drawn carriage that takes you over the Thunder Bay River and into the woods at Thunder Bay Resort to see the magnificent elk. Enjoy the scenery, the smell of pine, and the ever-changing face of the Thunder Bay River as the horses make their way deep in the woods to the beautiful Elk Antler Log Cabin. A blazing fire in a massive split stone fireplace welcomes you. Wonderful aromas mix with the scent of hardwood smoke and emanate from two antique wood cook stoves in full view. This elegant cabin maintains its rustic appearance while providing every amenity. Warm yourself by the fire and savor the delicious aromas put forth by the twin antique wood cook stoves as staff prepares your gourmet meal. Throughout your dinner, sample wines from nearby wineries. (B,D)
OVN: Hillman, MI

Day 5: Friday, August 16, 2024

Breakfast is included in the Clubhouse Grille before our departure to Frankenmuth. Upon our arrival we meet our guide for a local tour. Our tour concludes with a one of Frankenmuth's famous chicken luncheons at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant. Purchased in 1950 by William & Dorothy Zehnder, this dynamic duo transformed the restaurant to the authentic German flavor that is reflected in the building and food. Over the years it has become famous for its chicken meals. Time will be allotted to explore the many shops lining Main Street. Time to depart for Bronner's Christmas Wonderland. Nowhere is Christmas displayed with such exuberance! When Wally Bronner painted his first sign over 50 years ago, little did he dream that his small business would one day become the world's largest Christmas store. It is a shopper's dream! Of the more than 6000 styles of ornaments which Bronner's carries, half of the glass ornaments are Bronner's exclusive designs. Inside and out, Christmas lights abound. Depart for Grand Rapids, MI. (B, Kickback Reception)
OVN: Grand Rapids, MI

Day 6: Saturday, August 17, 2024

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Depart for Silver Beach Carousel. The horses, the tigers, the hippocampus, the panda, the clown fish – in all, 48 unique carousel figures and two chariots –

are whirling with excitement to see you. Come pick your favourite and ride beneath 1000 twinkling lights as the band organ's music happily soars and dips with the gears. Each figure is beautifully hand-carved and hand-painted by the artisans at The Carousel Works. Around the top of the carousel, you can learn about local history – told as no one else in the world has told it on a carousel – using historic photographs. As you gaze at those 18 rounding boards, you will become part of their story. It is now time to depart for home. Our arrival is late afternoon. (B)