

# Circle Michigan's Lower Peninsula



**DAY 1:** The day begins at the Silver Beach Carousel. Each figure is beautifully hand-carved and hand-painted by the artisans at The Carousel Works. Around the top of the carousel, 18 rounding boards tell the story of the local history. Lunch today is aboard the USS LST 393 Veteran's Museum. A key component of D-Day only 2 remain in the world. The cavernous main deck held 28 Sherman tanks with jeeps and trucks on the higher decks. This is a ship museum that honors all the veterans of the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This afternoon's stop is in Mears, Michigan where you will board special dune schooners to ride on the sand dunes in the Silver Lake area. Your experienced driver will amuse and educate you as you cruise the slopes and valleys of one of Michigan's treasures. Accommodations tonight are in the Ludington/Manistee area.

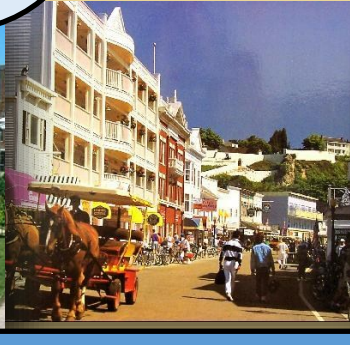
**DAY 2:** This morning, arrive in Empire, Michigan and at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center. Enjoy a short film before taking a guided ride along the Pierce Stocking Drive. World-class vistas will give you a view of Michigan that is simply spectacular! It is no wonder that in 2011 Good Morning America's viewers voted Sleeping Bear Dunes "The Most Beautiful Place in America." Continue to Traverse City for time to enjoy lunch and explore their picturesque downtown. Be sure to stop at the Cherry Republic for "all things cherry." This afternoon visit the Music House Museum, take a trip on a Tall Ship or tour the Old Mission Peninsula and visit its wineries and picturesque lighthouse. Accommodations tonight are in Traverse City. Enjoy a tour, dinner and The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute at the Traverse City Opera House.

**DAY 3:** A short drive brings you to Mackinaw City where you will meet your guide for a fascinating ride across the Mighty Mac. 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. Upon arrival on Mackinac Island a horse drawn carriage will meet you for a tour of the island. For anyone who has seen the movie "Somewhere in Time" there will be moments of déjà vu. Accommodations tonight are on Mackinac Island.

**DAY 5:** The morning is free to continue discovering Mackinac Island. Wander down Main Street and visit some of Mackinac Island's unique shops. Be sure to taste some of the famous Mackinac Island fudge before returning to the mainland and departing for Cross in the Woods National Shrine. The highlight of the shrine is a large wooden cross and bronze figure of Christ by sculptor Marshall Fredericks. It is the largest wooden Crucifix in the world. Accommodations tonight are at Thunder Bay Resort. After checking into your rooms 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 view the Elk. Dinner is in the beautiful Elk Antler Log Cabin. Savor the delicious aromas put forth by the twin antique wood cook stoves as culinary artist Spenser James and his staff prepare your gourmet meal. Throughout your dinner, sample from nearby wineries as attentive servers see to your every need.

**DAY 6:** Depart for Frankenmuth, MI. Time will be allowed to explore the many shops lining Main Street before continuing to Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland. When Wally painted his first sign, little did he dream that his small business would one day become the world's largest Christmas store. Continue to Dearborn, MI and The Rouge Factory Tour. Put yourself at the center of sheer manufacturing might where the new military grade aluminium-alloy body Ford F-150 is made. Get set for some eye-opening encounters with the technology of tomorrow – today.

**DAY 7:** Explore the many exhibits at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. Henry Ford said of his museum: "I am collecting the history of our people as written into things their hands made and used."



For more information contact Susan at 248-672-3813