

From Coast to Coast in Michigan



DAY 1: Arrive Soaring Eagle Casino. Snuggle in for the night. Relax in their 2400 square foot "free form" pool that with its ½ million glass tiles from Milan, Italy and underwater music and lights OR try your luck on the casino floor. The Casino Package presently includes \$20 food vouchers and \$30 in free play.

DAY 2: The Ziiibwing Cultural Center tells the story of the original people of the Great Lakes. Integrated throughout the exhibit are the Seven Prophecies that were given to the Anishinabek thousands of years ago. These prophecies were from prophets that visited the Anishinabek when they were living on the East Coast of North America. This afternoon, discover Castle Farms. A walking and tram tour through this unique facility will delight you with the rich history of Castle Farms. Learn about its original construction in 1918 as the Loeb Farm, to the Van Haver art studio and gallery period, as well as, the music concert era. Conclude with the extensive restoration process from 2001 to present. This afternoon a local guide will show you the architectural diversity of this lovely city. Highlighted are the more than thirty homes designed by local architect Earl Young. Dating from 1921 to the 1950's, these unique, "mushroom houses" are built out of native stone and sport cedar shake roofs. Continue up the coast of Lake Michigan to Petoskey. Dinner tonight is at the Stafford's Perry Hotel. With Mother Nature's cooperation you will experience one of Hemmingway's "Million Dollar Sunsets."

DAY 3: Depart this morning for Mackinaw City where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet at the Straits of Mackinac. 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. Continue with your guide to Mackinac Island. 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. Now go behind the scenes at this idyllic resort with author Mike Fornes. The tour concludes with lunch at the Grand Hotel. This afternoon, board a 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. Accommodations tonight are on the Island.

DAY 4: 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. Departing the Island this afternoon, continue along the coast of Lake Huron. A stop will be made at 40 Mile Point Lighthouse. Follow "Shipwreck Trail" to see what's left of the Joseph S. Fay, one of 27 wooden ships that sank during a fierce storm in 1905. You can see about 150' of her sidewalls resting on the beach. Accommodations tonight are at Thunder Bay Resort. After checking into your rooms board a horse drawn carriage for a ride 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 5: This morning explore Lake Huron. 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. Following the cruise, visit the Thunder Bay Maritime Heritage Center: Experience the Shipwreck Century as you battle the fury of a Lake Huron storm aboard a 19th-century schooner. This afternoon continue south to West Branch, MI. Arrive the Silver Lining Boutique and Wine Tasting Room for Modern Craft Winery. Their unique wine making process melds modern day technology with old world techniques. From this special process, Modern Craft creates wines that are smooth and freshly balanced from first to last sip. Wine tasting includes a choice of 3 different wines and a souvenir glass. Accommodations tonight are in Frankenmuth, MI.

For more information contact Susan Hatcher with Thunder Bay Resort

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