

# Great Lakes Tour

## Featuring Wisconsin & Michigan

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### Travel Is Fun Tours

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### September 12 – 25, 2018 14 DAYS

**Includes: 19 Meals (13B, 1L, 5D)** The Ark Experience, Henry Ford Museum, Mackinac Island - Grand Hotel Buffet & Horse Drawn Carriage Ride, Sault Ste. Marie Locks, Green Bay Packer's Hall of Fame, Wisconsin Dells, House on the Rock, Frank Lloyd Wright's Home, Paducah KY, Nashville TN, 4 nights at Drury Inns with buffet breakfast & evening food and drinks!

**Day One** – The destination for our first day of travel is **Morrow, GA**, just south of **Atlanta**, where we will have one-night at the **Drury Inn**. Drury Inns are offering their guests an incredible array of amenities including: arrival refreshments, complimentary in-room coffee, deluxe continental breakfast (hot & cold), free long-distance calls (60 minutes per room, per night) also, evening beverages and the **FREE 5:30 KICKBACK** from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Drury has increased their evening food offerings to always include salad and baked potato bar, nacho bar, snack mix, chips, carrots, celery and dip. There will also be items such as broccoli cheddar soup, macaroni and cheese, breaded chicken strips, boneless chicken wings, and chili-dogs offered on a rotating basis. We will call this our "Drury Dinner". The delicious, very deluxe buffet **breakfast** Drury has always offered includes eggs, sausage, self-serve waffle maker, yogurt, fresh fruit, juices, milk & cereal, bagels, biscuits and gravy and more.

**Day Two**– After your Drury breakfast our journey continues north to the **Quality Inn in Richmond KY** with appropriate meal stops and rest breaks, of course. On our way to Richmond we will make an interesting stop at the **Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea**. This is "Where Everything is Made in Kentucky". The Center celebrates Kentucky's Artisans through sales, exhibits, displays, events and demonstrations. Get a good night of rest, for tomorrow we visit the **Ark Experience!**

**Day Three** – After enjoying our hotel's deluxe continental breakfast, we depart for **The Ark Encounter!** It is larger than life and we will spend about a ½ day here. Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. The Troyer Group, a construction firm in Mishawaka, Indiana, was contracted to oversee construction of the ark, which was constructed by **Amish builders** using timber framing techniques. In total, over 1,000 craftsmen were employed in the ark's construction. Whenever possible, the builders employed techniques from the ancient era, such as manually bending the wood for the rudder rather than steaming it to make it more



pliable. Ark Encounter is situated in beautiful Williamstown, Kentucky. From the moment you turn the corner and the towering Ark comes into view, from the friendly animals in the zoo, to the jaw-dropping exhibits inside the Ark you'll be in awe of this modern, ancient timber-frame structure and its surrounding exhibits. After our time at the Ark Encounter we continue to **Sidney OH** & our home tonight is the **Hampton Inn**. Our hotel includes a delicious, hot **breakfast** and tonight's **dinner** at **Cracker Barrel** is included as well.

**Day Four** – This morning the adventure continues as we travel to **Michigan** where we pay a visit to the **Ford Museum in Dearborn MI**. You'll find the world's largest steam locomotive on display here and many other fantastic exhibits. The museum is in **Greenfield Village**, a neighborhood dreamt up and assembled by Henry Ford. Our home for the night is in **Troy MI** and is the favorite of many – **The Drury Inn!** Check Day One for the impressive listing of the Drury Inn meals (**breakfast & dinner**) & amenities.

**Day Five, Six & Seven** – After our Drury Inn buffet **Breakfast** we depart for today's destination – **Mackinaw City MI** where we spend 3 nights at the **Baymont Inn**. You'll enjoy the stay here, with nicely appointed, modern rooms, an indoor swimming pool and the Baymont Breakfast Corner. While here, we will spend a day on **Mackinac Island** (pronounced Mackinaw) with its unspoiled beauty. No cars allowed! We will enjoy a tour by horse and carriage and one of the best **Buffet Lunches** you are likely to ever experience at the **Grand Hotel's Grand Buffet**. This is the hotel featured in the 1980 movie "**Somewhere in Time**" starring Christopher Reeve & Jane Seymour. Finally, we return to the Ferry Boat docks by horse-drawn carriage and this special day will remain etched in your memory! Our stay in Michigan will also include a **Sault Ste. Marie Locks Tour by Boat**. This is our furthest point north on this tour, as Canada can be seen during our touring today. The first lock was built on the American side in 1855 and expansion continued until there were four locks to accommodate the 95 million tons of freight passing through every year. This natural barrier through navigation made necessary the construction of the **locks** project known as the St. Mary's Falls Canal. The world-famous **Soo Locks** form a passage for deep-draft ships around the rapids in the St. Mary's River. The locks allow the enormous ships to pass and avoid the 21-foot drop from Lake Superior to Lake Huron.



**Day Eight** – After breakfast at Baymont Inn, our next destination is everyone's favorite hometown – **Green Bay Wisconsin!** We will enjoy a one-night stay at the luxurious **Radisson Inn at Oneida Casino** (\$20 free play). This beautiful resort features an indoor, heated pool, whirlpool, sauna & exercise room as well as a **full breakfast** in the morning. Tour members will also receive a welcome reception with a drink coupon and \$10 food voucher as well. While here, we will be visiting the nearby **Packer Hall of Fame** at Lambeau Field. The **Green Bay Packers** were founded on August 11, 1919 by Curly Lambeau and George Whitney Calhoun. The Packers have played longer in their original city than any other team in the NFL. The Packers have won more championships (13) than any other NFL franchise. The Hall of Fame also displays trophies from the Packers' 13 world championships, including four Lombardi trophies, as well as the hall's most popular exhibit: a replica of Vince Lombardi's office. Then we return to the lovely Radisson for an evening of fun and games!



**Day Nine & Ten** – After a nice hot breakfast at our hotel, we depart for the **Wisconsin Dells**. Our home for 2 nights is the **Best Western Ambassador Hotel**. This hotel is the higher quality of Best Western Hotels and features a **full breakfast** each morning. On the drive to our hotel today we will stop for the **Upper Dells Boat Tour** - the section of river above the dam in Wisconsin Dells, you'll journey northward, cruising through an awesome path cut by ancient glaciers. You'll pass under pine-crowned cliffs, navigate winding river narrows, and view iconic sandstone formations like Chimney Rock, Blackhawk's Profile and Romance Cliff and more. On our second day in the Dells we visit **Spring Green WI** – the hometown of architect **Frank**

**Lloyd Wright.** While here, we will experience **The Hillside Studio & Theater Tour** which provides an intimate look at 60 years of the life of America's greatest architect, and the lives of the family who inspired him. Frank Lloyd Wright first designed Hillside in 1902 for his aunts, who ran an innovative children's boarding school based on the motto "learn by doing." Wright's building, as innovative as the school it housed, is situated on land cleared by his pioneering grandparents. Some tour highlights include: Assembly Hall, Hillside Drafting Studio, Romeo & Juliet windmill tower and Hillside Theater. Next, we visit the **House on the Rock** for a self-guided tour. This is a tough place to describe but is sure to be a very memorable experience.

**Day Eleven** – After a nice breakfast, we depart for **Marion IL**. Our travel today will take us through a good bit of the Illinois Farmlands. Our hotel for tonight is the **Drury Inn** in Marion IL. You'll enjoy all the usual Drury Inn Amenities as listed in detail on Day One.

**Day Twelve** – After an enjoyable Drury Inn breakfast, we depart for today's destination, **Chattanooga South**. Tonight's hotel is the **Fairfield Inn** with **Hot Breakfast included**. Our drive today features a wide variety of beautiful scenery. First, as we leave Illinois, we will cross the Ohio River and enter into Kentucky. In **Paducah** we will have a short, but very interesting driving tour. Paducah is a city in McCracken County, Kentucky at the confluence of the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. Paducah experienced a horrible flood in 1937, forcing 27,000 residents to higher ground for nearly 3 weeks. I mention this because as a result, a huge **flood wall** was constructed along the Ohio river. This flood wall has been painted with **giant murals**, some depicting the flood. 90% of the city was flooded and water lines can still be seen on some buildings. After Paducah, our day continues as we travel to **Nashville TN** where you will have time for lunch and browsing on your own in the famous downtown area. You'll find many points of interest here, including the Wild Horse Saloon, Hard Rock Café, record stores and much more. After our time in Nashville, the journey continues as we cross the Appalachian Mountains and the Tennessee River at one of its wider points. After all the great scenery, we check into the Fairfield Inn Chattanooga South.

**Day Thirteen** – This morning, after our Fairfield Inn hot breakfast, we depart and will soon enter Georgia. Today, we travel south on I-75 South all day and will stay the night at a newer **Drury Inn** in **Valdosta GA**. Have a relaxing evening, enjoying the last **5:30 Kickback** of the tour with your traveling buddies.

**Day Fourteen** - After enjoying our final breakfast of this tour, we will resume our travel back to St. Petersburg. We'll make appropriate stops for rest breaks and lunch today as we journey back home with our memories of **Michigan, Wisconsin & the Great Lakes**. Thank you for choosing **Travel Is Fun Tours!**

**COST:** \$1849 per person twin, Or \$2499 per person single

Travel Protection is offered through our office at \$104 twin or \$129 single.

Please pay deposit of \$100 to secure a seat, balance due 7-25-18

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