MICHIGAN’S FINEST!
Henry Ford Museum • Greenfield Village • Frankenmuth • Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse • Mackinac Island • Pictured Rocks • Soo Locks • Traverse City • Sleeping Bear Dunes

Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation showcases technological and social advances that have fueled imaginations and forever changed our lives.

Experience Christmas in September at Bronners in Frankenmuth.

Take a trip back in time at the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse.

Board a ferry to Mackinac Island where folks get around by foot, bicycle or horse because motorized vehicles are not permitted. We will stay at the iconic Grand Hotel with its famous 660-foot long porch.

Marvel at the natural beauty of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Our narrated cruise will cover the most visually stunning shoreline on the Great Lakes!

Visit Michigan’s first city, Sault Ste. Marie, and experience a boat tour through the famous Soo Locks.

On the way to historic Traverse City, we will travel through the area where Ernest Hemingway spent his first 21 summers.

Explore Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a breathtaking combination of cobalt blue water, forests and towering sand dunes.

Day 1.........................Chicago to Dearborn
Day 2 ......................Henry Ford Museum / Greenfield Village
Day 3.........................Frankenmuth / Mackinaw City
Days 4 & 5 ....................Mackinac Island
Day 6..................Pictured Rocks / Sault Ste. Marie
Day 7.................Mighty Mac / Traverse City
Day 8...............Sleeping Bear Dunes
Day 9...............En Route to Chicago
TOUR DATE(S):  
2020  
Sun., Sept. 13 to Mon., Sept. 21  

TOUR PRICE:  
All prices are per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.  
$2,995 - 9 Days  
SINGLE $4,095  

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:  
• Round-trip transportation by rail and deluxe motorcoach.  
• First-class hotel accommodations for eight nights.  
• 16 meals.  
• Sightseeing tours at each destination.  
• Baggage handling, taxes & tips.  
• Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director.  

América by Rail will be happy to make arrangements for your connecting transportation to Chicago and back by rail or air.  

Day 1: Chicago  
M ichigan’s Finest tour members will arrive in Chicago’s Union Station throughout the day. This afternoon we will board Amtrak’s Wolverine Service for the 5:50 p.m. departure to Dearborn.  

We will transfer to the Comfort Inn Greenfield Village, our home for the next two nights.  

Day 2: Henry Ford Museum / Greenfield Village  
Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation showcases technological and social advances that have fueled imaginations and forever changed our lives. We’ll explore the first 40 years of flight, browse through the world’s premier automotive collection, with an array of presidential limousines including the one John F. Kennedy was assassinated in. We’ll see an unparalleled collection of artifacts representing powerful change such as the bus on which Rosa Parks took a stand for Civil Rights, the camp bed George Washington used during the Revolutionary War and the chair that Abraham Lincoln was sitting in the night he was shot.  

At Greenfield Village we’ll discover the American tradition of ingenuity and resourcefulness through 83 authentic, historic structures and four living history farms. Among the structures are Henry Ford’s childhood home and Thomas Edison’s Menlo Park laboratory. We’ll also observe nationally-renowned artists creating one-of-kind pieces in pottery, tin and glass.  

This evening we’ll enjoy a Welcome Dinner. B & D  

Day 3: Frankenmuth / Mackinaw City  
This morning we’ll board our deluxe motorcoach and roll up I-75 to Frankenmuth, Michigan’s “Little Bavaria”. Our first stop will be Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland, the world’s largest Christmas store. This amazing store is the size of 1 1/2 football fields. The sights, sounds and spirit of Christmas completely surround you. Next we’re off to Zehnder’s for their world-famous family style chicken dinner.  

The Zehnder history in Frankenmuth dates back to 1856!  
Following lunch we will again roll north on I-75 and the landscape will gradually change from farmland to wilderness, lakes and rolling hills. Upon arrival in Mackinaw City we’ll transfer to our hotel, the Holiday Inn Express. B & L  

Day 4: The Tip of the Mitten / Mackinac Island  
This morning we’ll tour the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. Since 1889, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse helped ships navigate through the treacherous waters of the Straits of Mackinac. There’s as much to see inside the original buildings as there is from the top of the tower (which requires climbing 51 narrow steps and an 11 rung, 8 foot ladder). We’ll experience authentically restored quarters and exhibits, including the original lens, a movie, Shipwrecks of the Straits, and the Straits of Mackinac Shipwreck Museum. This “Castle of the Straits” is a true highlight of the Great Lakes.  

Following an “on-your-own” lunch we’ll board a ferry for world-famous Mackinac Island.  

This island gem remains much as it was when the first Europeans settled here in 1670.  
Folks get around by foot, bicycle or horse because motorized vehicles are not permitted.
Although the year-round human population is only about 500 residents, the horse population can be as high as 500 during the summer months!

Built in 1887 and featured in the 1980 movie “Somewhere in Time” (starring Christopher Reeves and Jane Seymour), the iconic Grand Hotel will be our home for the next two nights. Travel + Leisure magazine rates it among the “Top 100 Hotels in the World”. It was also included in Gourmet magazine’s “Top 25 Hotels in the World”. Enjoy spectacular views of the Straits of Mackinac and the famed Mackinac Bridge in rocking chairs on the world’s longest porch. Full breakfasts and five-course dinners are included.

This afternoon we’ll set-off on a horse-drawn carriage tour of the island. You’ll see Fort Mackinac, built by the British to guard the Straits of Mackinac during the American Revolution, as well as “downtown” Mackinac Island with many historic homes and grand Victorian cottages. You’ll also learn more about the Grand Hotel at a presentation by a local historian who will share unique anecdotes about this famous landmark.

**Day 5: Mackinac Island**

Today you are free to experience all this island has to offer; explore, shop, or simply rock the day away on the 660-foot-long porch! And be sure to sample some of the famous Mackinac Island Fudge!

**Day 6: Pictured Rocks / Sault Ste. Marie**

Following breakfast we’ll board the ferry and meet our deluxe motorcoach in St. Ignace. We’ll enjoy the scenic drive across Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to Munising on the shores of Lake Superior.

Upon arrival we’ll set out on one of the top attractions of the Midwest, the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore boat cruise. Our 2 1/2 to 3 hour narrated cruise will cover the most visually stunning shoreline on the Great Lakes!

Following the tour we’ll transfer to Michigan’s first city, Sault Ste. Marie. This area was settled by Native Americans more than 500 years before Father Jacques Marquette founded the Catholic Mission in 1668.

We’ll enjoy an included dinner this evening. Our home for the night is the Hampton Inn. 

**Day 7: Mighty Mac / Traverse City**

This morning we’ll check out of our hotel and transfer to the Soo Locks. Joining Lake Huron and Lake Superior, the Soo Locks are one of engineering’s greatest marvels as giant ships from around the globe make their way through one of the world’s busiest locks. Ships must rise or fall 21 feet to continue their journey. We’ll actually ride through the Soo Locks and cruise alongside giant lake and ocean ships. Our boat will be raised 21 feet straight up to the level of Lake Superior. The tour route includes both up-bound and down-bound lockage through the giant U.S. Locks and historic Canadian Lock.
This afternoon we will board our motorcoach and enjoy an included box lunch as we head south.

We will cross the spectacular Mackinac Bridge, known locally as Mighty Mac. We will then begin one of the most scenic rides you’re ever likely to experience. Michigan’s M-119, also known as the Tunnel of Trees, winds along a bluff high above Lake Michigan and features a stunning display of northern hardwoods draped over the roadway, creating the feeling of traveling through a tunnel. The route is a favorite of Northern Michigan visitors because of the rolling terrain, stunning views of Lake Michigan and dramatic curves.

We will travel through Petoskey, an area where Ernest Hemingway spent his first 21 summers.

The Petoskey area provides the backdrop for many of his Nick Adams stories.

 Traverse City is known as the Cherry Capital. This area produces 70 to 75 percent of the tart cherries grown in the United States. It is also been called the Caribbean of the North. We’ll enjoy an included dinner enroute. Our home this evening is the Hampton Inn.

**Day 8: Sleeping Bear Dunes / Grand Rapids**

This morning we’ll head west to Sleeping Bear Dunes, voted the “Most Beautiful Place in America” by Good Morning America viewers. The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is a breathtaking combination of cobalt blue water, forests and towering sand dunes. We will roll south to Grand Rapids.

Tonight we will enjoy a Farewell Dinner. Our home is the Homewood Suites by Hilton Downtown.

**Day 9: En Route / Chicago**

We will transfer to the Amtrak Station for the final leg of our Michigan’s Finest Tour. We’ll board Amtrak’s Pere Marquette for the scenic ride along southern Lake Michigan. Our arrival into Chicago Union Station is scheduled for 9:08 a.m. Travelers will continue on to home destinations throughout the day.

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