

# Michigan Sunrise TOURS

## Five Nights, Six Days

### Day One –

At 4:00 a warm chocolate chip cookie awaits you as we check in to the **Doubletree Hotel Bay City Riverfront** where we will stay the next two nights. Take a stroll on the river walk just outside the front door or relax prior to this evening's **Cooking Demonstration and Dinner at Fusion 1.** You will learn to prepare and taste the best contemporary international cuisine in the area. Be sure to ask questions from Chef Craig Fiebke as he creates your fabulous dinner. Take home the recipe's to prepare for your family and friends!

We will finish the evening with Wine and Chocolate tasting from the **Sweet Boutique** while we enjoy time at the **Bay City Motor Company** which, has over 30 vehicles on display from vintage to muscle cars. Maybe your high school hot rod is on display right now!

Finish your evening back at the hotel, falling into the Doubletree's "sweet dream" beds.

### Day Two –

This morning feast on Doubletree Riverfront Grille's breakfast buffet, prior to picking up our step on guide at 9:00 for a historic **"Center Avenue Tour"**. Travel past stately Center Avenue homes and through the notorious riverfront. Bay City boasts over 200 homes on the National or State Historic Register.

We end our tour in downtown Bay City where we will stop at **Studio 23 The Arts Center** and the **Ward Studio Gallery**. You can choose to use watercolors and create a keepsake print or mail home a postcard with the sights of your upcoming attractions. Better yet, take your love for chocolate and become your own artist! Draw out your design then transfer your creation to a chocolate canvas. You will surely enjoy creating this ART-tistically delicious dessert! With Painterly Pottery the creative staff at the Ward Studio Gallery will assist you as you create a personalized bisque piece to keep for yourself or give as a gift. When your piece is finished they clear dip it and fire it in their own kiln. Your keepsake will be shipped and waiting for you at home! All individuals choose their own activity.

Get ready for a short walk through the park for this afternoon's 3-hour Lunch Sail on the **Tall Ship Appledore**. Enjoy an unforgettable afternoon learning the history of the Saginaw River as the Appledore sails from Downtown By City out to the Saginaw Bay. Once out on the open water, help the crew set the sails or relax and enjoy the view.

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Take a quick break back at the Doubletree Hotel as we depart at 4:30 to visit the award winning **Dow Gardens**. You will enjoy over 100 acres of flowers, shrubs, ponds and trees in a relaxing pastoral setting. Follow the curving paths as you meander past a waterfall, beside a winding brook and over bridges. Be sure not to miss the Conservatory with lush tropical orchids and seasonal displays. You may even find the young-at-heart exploring a tree house.

After our stroll in the gardens, what could be more fitting to a perfect day, as we sit down to a light dinner of soups, salads and wonderful desserts at **The Atrium** in an atmosphere reminiscent of a European town square. Skylights, clouds painted on the ceiling, a terra cotta stamped floor, gazebo and three-tiered fountain create the illusion of out door dining.

## **Day Three -**

This morning feast on Doubletree Riverfront Grille's breakfast buffet prior to heading north to Au Gres. Unpack your official lighthouse passport as we are off to the Northport Travel Center in Au Gres for an 11:30 departure where we board the **50 foot Passenger Vessel" NorthStar"**. Enjoy the one-hour ride across the open waters of **Saginaw Bay** to **Big Charity Island**. The lake mariners named the island for its location, placed through the charity of God midway between the city of Au Gres and the Thumb of Michigan. On the way to the island we will also stop at **Gravelly Shoals Light**.

Upon arrival at the Island Harbor you will receive a presentation of the history of the Island and the **Charity Island Lighthouse**. We will then walk through the beautiful hardwood forest to the lightkeepers house. A traditional Great Lakes Perch or Beef Tenderloin lunch is served on the porch providing a breathtaking view of Saginaw Bay. Tours of the home are given after lunch. Dessert is served on the return trip back to the mainland.

Later this afternoon we travel north where we arrive at the **Thunder Bay Resort** where we will stay for the next two nights. Enjoy relaxing on the grounds of the resort overlooking the golf course, play a game of horse-shoes with your friends or time in the hot tub. This evening we gather as a group for a pizza dinner in the Clubhouse Grill. Finish your evening with a little star gazing in the dark northern sky while roasting marshmallow!

## **Day Four –**

After breakfast depart for the **Forty Mile Point Lighthouse** which is located on the northern shoreline of Lake Huron in Presque Isle County's Lighthouse Park in Roger's City, Michigan. At a cost of \$25,000, the station was complete by the end of 1896. Its 4<sup>th</sup> Order Fresnel lens has been a welcoming beacon to sailors since May 1897 and is still operating today. We will also visit the pilot house from the Steamer Calcite, built in 1912 and the first self-unloading steamer on the lakes.

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Next we return south for the ride to one of the oldest surviving lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Built in 1840, *Old Presque Isle Lighthouse* and then to the *New Presque Isle Lighthouse built in 1871*. After enjoying the lighthouses and the sight of freighters' going by its time to head towards Alpena with a stop at the *Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival's "Museum"*. Enjoy artifacts from Great Lakes Ships, Lighthouses, Coast Guard and Keepers of Yesterday. Box lunches provided at the New Presque Isle Lighthouse.

Next we take the short ride to visit the *Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center*. This 20,000 sq. foot center was built by the NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) to complement the Thunder Bay National Underwater Shipwreck Preserve. Lake Huron's unpredictable weather, its murky fog banks, and sudden gales coupled with rocky shoals earned Thunder Bay the unfortunate name of "Shipwreck Alley." During the 200-year shipping history, scores of vessels ended their careers on the lake floor of Alpena, Michigan. Here you will be able to explore shipwrecks in real time via live video feeds, discover the Great Lakes' rich maritime past through innovative exhibits and learn how underwater archaeologists work to preserve historic shipwrecks.

Then it's back to the hotel for time to freshen up or relax as we prepare for a four-hour slice of Northern Michigan heaven. We will enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride through the woods, across the Thunder Bay River and into the Elk Preserve. Here you'll see majestic *Rocky Mountain Elk* and trophy Whitetails. Then it's on to the *Elk Antler Log Cabin* for a gourmet five-course dinner prepared before you on antique wood cookstoves. While deep in the northern forest you will also enjoy samples of six locally produced wines from the Stoney Acres Winery in Alpena. Then it's back to the carriages for the return trip.

## **Day Five –**

After breakfast we take the short ride to visit the *Brush Creek Mill* located on the banks of the Thunder Bay River. Watch as the Mill demonstrates the power of moving water with its 22' stainless steel wheel and how it powers different types of electrical items. We will also enjoy a demonstration of the grinding stones and the different grinds of flour and corn meals that can be produced without the use of anything but the 22' water wheel. Enjoy samples of breads and muffins made from the freshly ground products and purchase some to make tasty homemade treats for your family. (Various local artists are also available for additional demonstrations based on availability – such as woodturnings, a watercolorist or the spinning of yarn, basket weaving and quilting) In the gift store you'll find items made by local crafters and artists.

This afternoon we will travel south on US Coastal Highway US 23 along Lake Huron to Harrisville, Michigan for another lighthouse tour. The *Sturgeon Point Lighthouse* was completed in 1875. As we travel south along the scenic shoreline of Lake Huron we will

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be crossing the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel, putting you half way between the equator and the North Pole.

We continue along the shoreline for a stop in downtown East Tawas located on beautiful Tawas Bay. We arrive at 12:30 where the streets of downtown East Tawas welcome guests for a stroll down Newman Street with its quaint shops and sidewalk cafes for a lunch on your own. You may also enjoy a leisurely walk out on the Tawas State Dock, which extends a quarter mile out into the Bay.

We then take the short ride to visit the Tawas Point Lighthouse built in 1876. The lighthouse is located at the North end of Tawas Point, which is famous among Birdwatchers, as it is a busy flyway for migratory birds each spring and fall.

Back in East Tawas we will check into the Tawas Bay Beach Resort located on the sandy shores of Tawas Bay. Enjoy some “Fun in the Sun” on the private sugar sand beach or enjoy time wading or swimming in Tawas Bay.

This evening we will enjoy a Summer Barbeque Buffet on the outdoor patio. Enjoy the in-house entertainment or take an evening stroll back on Newman Street to enjoy the nightlife. Do a little stargazing in the dark northern Michigan sky before finishing the evening with a traditional beach bonfire!

## **Day Six –**

After a continental breakfast enjoy time with Paul Bunyan as we travel the newly designated National Highway, River Road, which is a 22-mile stretch that follows the historic Au Sable River.

Along the scenic byway we take a trip back in time to learn about Michigan’s colorful lumbering history at Lumberman’s Monument. Hands-on exhibits, displays, videos and interpretive programs tell the Lumber Jacks’ story.

With the lumbering history and lore of Lumberman’s monument, we’ll have to stop and sample one local favorite “Bark” from Sherni’s Candies.

Save room for a Lumber Jack lunch at the Quality Inn Forward Conference Center, which is home to Lumber Jack Food & Spirits, listed by the Detroit New as one of the top three places to dine in mid Michigan. Your meal is served in mining pans just like those from which miners and lumberjacks ate during the historic mining and lumbering era. Enjoy a special activity and a little time to shop Quality Inn’s Up North gift shop before departing for home.

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## INCLUDING:

- 14 Meals
- 5 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- Professional Tour Director or Local Host
- All Sightseeing and Admission Fees
- Baggage Handling

**NET PRICE: \$.00 ~ Single**

**\$.00 ~ Double**

**\$.00 ~ Triple**

**\$.00 ~ Quad**

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cooking Demonstration Dinner at Fusion 1 Café
- Wine & Chocolate Tasting amongst the vehicles of The Bay City Motor Company
- Historic Center Avenue Tour
- Studio 23 The Arts Center/Ward Studio Gallery
- Lunch Sail aboard the Tallship Appledore
- Dow Gardens
- Charity Island Lighthouse Cruise & Dinner
- 40 Mile Point Lighthouse
- The Old & New Presque Isle Lighthouses
- Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival “Museum”
- Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center
- Elk Viewing, Carriage/Sleigh Ride Gourmet Dinner and Wine Tasting
- Brush Creek Mill
- Sturgeon Point Lighthouse
- Tawas Point Lighthouse
- Beach/Barbeque Tawas Bay Beach Resort
- Lumberman’s Monument
- Sherni’s Candies
- Lunch at Lumber Jack Food & Spirits