

# FAIRY DUST AND HIGH TIDES



**Day One** – Bring your camera and get ready for the spectacular **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**. It's been voted one of the most beautiful places in the U.S. by viewers of the popular morning television show, Good Morning America.

The crystal clear turquoise waters of Lake Michigan set against the dune formations of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore create an extraordinary view. Hear about the legend and lore of this National Lakeshore attraction. No list of northern Michigan scenery is complete without a mention of Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. Situated between Glen Arbor and Empire it offers spectacular views, through forest and across Glen Lake and then over the dunes and out across Lake Michigan. A little over seven miles long, **Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive** snakes its way through the steep rolling hills of the Lake Michigan shoreline.



Jutting north between the azure arms of Lake Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay lies **Old Mission Peninsula**. Situated at the globe's 45th parallel – an ideal climate for growing varietal wine grapes – the eight distinct wineries that comprise this stunning appellation have been well recognized by wine enthusiasts the world over. Discover the beauty of the Old Mission Peninsula and experience its award-winning wines. Indulge in local fare at any of the restaurants and cafes along Old Mission Peninsula's wineries.



- Overnight at one of the two best area hotels for group tours – **Grand Traverse Resort & Spa**, a sprawling resort on 900 acres of woods and gardens or the **Country Inn & Suites**, a contemporary hotel with a picturesque courtyard and patio. Both are in Traverse City.

**Day Two** - This morning it's a musical tour of rare, antique musical instruments at the famous **Music House Museum**. Listen to the tunes of music-making machines from 1870 to 1930. From Belgian dance organs to nickelodeons and music boxes, to massive pipe organs. The Music House Museum is a unique collection of instruments that provide guests with a walk through the history, artistry and engineering of automated music.



Next you are off the beautiful city of **Charlevoix**. Nicknamed, "Charlevoix the Beautiful", it is easy to see why. The **Charlevoix Historical Society** does a wonderful step on tour aboard your coach of the area. Highlighting the tour are the **Gnome Homes.....Mushroom Houses.....Fairy Houses.....Smurfsville**. Shaped with boulders, these rounded and curved homes with wavy, curvy roofs are known world-wide. And the only place you can see them is in Charlevoix, Michigan. Discover these fascinating stone houses that are snuggled into the hillside...hear about the man who built them and how he designed the houses naturally into the landscape. They are magnificent.

Lunch at the drawbridge? Yes, of course, at the beautiful **Weathervane Restaurant**. This charming restaurant was designed by the same man who built the famous Mushroom Houses. The focal point of the dining area is a massive stone fireplace with a history all its' own. Made of glacial boulders and shaped like Michigan's lower peninsula, the fireplace actually replicates a map of the state including highways and interstates. Enjoy this one-of-a-kind atmosphere overlooking the beautiful channel and drawbridge.



Magnificent stone towers, English gardens and cobblestone courtyards. Enjoy the atmosphere of European romance at historic **Castle Farms**. Hear delightful stories and rich history from its beginning in 1918 as a model farm and its rise to a National Historic Landmark. Tour the Hedge Maze and Tower Bridge that leads to a view of the garden railroad with numerous trains running on three levels.



#### **Optional Side Trip from Charlevoix—**

Leave your passport at home and come visit the only former Kingdom in the United States. From Charlevoix board the **Beaver Island Boat Company** over to **Beaver Island**, known as the Emerald Isle. This is the largest inhabited year round island in Michigan. And what history they have. With Beaver Island Tours you'll



discover the unique stories of the Irish and Mormon population that lived on the island and hear about the ‘War at Whiskey Point’. Savor time in the galleries, restaurants, shops, museums and on the island. Overnight accommodations are also available on the island....

A popular seaside resort since the 19th century when visitors arrived by train or steamer, groups will love the Victorian charm of **Petoskey**. Get a step on history tour of the “Painted Ladies”, colorful Victorian homes and cottages. Discover Ernest Hemmingway’s true love and fascinating stories about historic Bay View. Stop at the historic **Gaslight District** for lunch and shopping. For a little ‘Vegas’ excitement and gaming, just head over to the gorgeous **Odawa Casino** in Petoskey.

Squeeze in a little time for a ‘chocolate fix’!



Since 1947, Kilwins Chocolate

Factory’s goal was simple – to make the best products they could. Today, **Kilwins Chocolate Factory** is an American success story with a tradition of producing quality Chocolates, Original Recipe Ice Creams and other sweets.

Tours are complimentary. Discover how they make delicious Turtles, Truffles, Chocolates, Caramel, Corns, and more. Free samples at the end of each tour!

- Overnight accommodations in Petoskey include the historic **Perry Hotel, Odawa Casino, Bay View Inn, Holiday Inn Express** and the **Apple Tree Inn**.
- Or groups can overnight in Charlevoix at the quaint **Weathervane Terrace Inn**.



**Day Three** – Hugging the shoreline of Lake Michigan, your drive this morning will take you further north through M-119, the “**Tunnel of Trees.**” The twisting, turning and winding road is lined with tall trees, their branches rise and arch towards the sky. In the fall the trees create a canopy of color as you make your way to Cross Village.



At Cross Village, it's a fantasy-like atmosphere at an unusual restaurant which is a **National Historic Site!** This iconic restaurant is a Michigan curiosity and a monument to nature. Set high on a bluff over the shores of Lake Michigan, this medieval looking stone, timber, and driftwood restaurant is a must see. Enjoy your memorable dining experience indoors or on the gorgeous patio outdoors.



A visit to **Mackinac Island** is the perfect destination to make a



lasting impression for your group tour. Did you know it was voted by National Geographic as one of the top ten most beautiful islands in the world?

Take any of the three ferry lines to transport you across the Straits of Mackinac. **Star Line Ferry or Sheplers Ferry** – each will whisk your group across the blue waters where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet. Once on the island, take the **Mackinac Island Carriage Tours** to get the

history of the island and its people. Stop at historic **Fort Mackinac** with its white stone walls and located on a high bluff above the town.

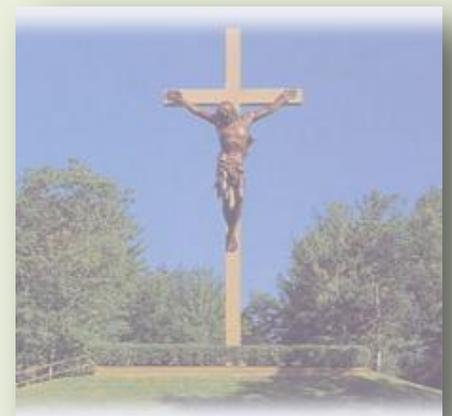
No tour would be complete without a visit to the magnificent **Grand Hotel** – a museum as much as it is a hotel. A real treat is the popular **Grand Luncheon Buffet.**, enjoyed in the main dining room of the hotel. Sales

Department staff will meet with your group and tell a brief history of the hotel. Afterwards, groups love to walk along main street in downtown Mackinac Island. Sample the fudge shops and browse, shop, and take in the Victorian architecture.



Groups can overnight on the mainland in Mackinaw City at **Holiday Inn Express or Days Inn**. Or overnight on the island and stay at the Grand Hotel, Island House, Lakeview Hotel, Murray Hotel or Mission Point Resort.

Once you depart Mackinac, travel 30 minutes south to Indian River. This is home to **Cross in the Woods** - a National Historic Site and the largest crucifix in the world. The wood and bronze sculpture is 55 ft. high and 22 ft. wide and is the work of famous artist, Marshall Fredericks. An impressive sight is The Holy Stairs, twenty-eight steps leading up to the cross. Other smaller shrines are here too. The shrine is also home to the largest collection of dolls dressed in traditional habits from religious communities all over the country.



Enjoy your tour to this special region of Michigan!

For more details on this tour, call Circle Michigan at 800-513-6424 [www.circlemichigan.com](http://www.circlemichigan.com)