

MICHIGAN FUN (Last year's Mini Mystery tour)

**Sunday, September 24 - Wednesday, September 27
St. Ignace, Hillman & Alpena, Michigan**

This tour was our Boats, Bottles and Bottoms Mini Mystery Tour in 2016. It was so well received we want to share it with our customers that are leery about signing up for a tour when they don't know where it is going.

Our first day of travel takes us through Peshtigo where on the evening of October 8, 1871 the worst recorded forest fire in North American history raged through Northeastern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, destroying millions of dollars' worth of property and timberland, and taking between 1,200 and 2,400 lives. The city of Chicago also happened



to endure a terrible fire that same fateful night. The Chicago Fire became part of the national consciousness while the Peshtigo tragedy gradually slipped into obscurity, eventually remembered primarily by scholars, local "old-timers" and Wisconsin school children (who are required to study their state's history in the 4th grade). In recent years America's "forgotten fire" has proven to be anything but. The tragedy is a subject of inquiry and debate amongst meteorologists, astronomers and conservationists. It has been dramatized by novelists and playwrights. It continues to fascinate history buffs and frustrate genealogists.

From Peshtigo we will travel to St. Ignace, Michigan and enjoy a Sip and Sail cruise under the Mackinac Bridge. We will experience the tranquility of the Straits aboard a charming cruise vessel that features multiple viewing areas, spacious open decks, indoor heated cabins, restrooms and a full service cash bar. Sip a cocktail as we take in the sights, and enjoy a starry sky.

Our evening accommodations will be at the Kewadin Casino Hotel. Slots of fun for those that might want to try their luck. The hotel features an indoor pool, fitness room and arcade.

Monday morning will have us checking out the Mystery Spot in St. Ignace.

continued...

Michigan Fun continued...

In the early 1950's, 3 surveyors came from California to explore the Upper Peninsula. They stumbled across an area of land where their surveying equipment didn't seem to work properly. This only occurred in an area about 300 feet in diameter, they felt they had discovered a "Mystery Spot"!

These phenomenal "happenings" can be photographed. It's a barrel of fun for the entire family.

Crossing the magnificent Mackinac Bridge, we will tour the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. A port in the storm and a guiding beacon since 1889, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse helped passing ships navigate through the treacherous waters of the Straits of Mackinac. There's just as much to see from the top of the tower as inside the original buildings. Authentically restored quarters and exhibits, including the original lens and an audiovisual program, Shipwrecks of the Straits, make this "Castle of the Straits" a true gem of the Great Lakes.

Our next stop will be at the beautiful National Shrine of the Cross in the Woods. The Wood Cross is made from one California Redwood Tree and is 55 feet in height with a 22 foot crossbeam. The weight is 14 tons. There are other amazing sculptures on the grounds that will make this a memorable stop on our tour.

Our home for the next two nights will be at magnificent Thunder Bay Resort in Hillman, Michigan. On our first evening, we will enjoy a delicious Pasta Buffet in their clubhouse, a bonfire and s'mores. The next morning, after a delicious full breakfast, we will travel the short distance to the Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Michigan. The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center is a visitor center for the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, featuring exciting exhibits for all ages. Exploring the Shipwreck Century, is located in the center's main hall and includes a full-size replica wooden Great Lakes schooner and shipwreck where visitors can walk the decks, feel



a Great Lakes storm, and touch the massive timbers of the boat resting on the lake bottom ... without getting wet! Weather permitting we will be taking a shipwreck tour. The crystal clear waters and the large 'glass bottom' viewing wells allow us to dive the wrecks - again without getting wet. During the 2 hour cruise we will experience the magnificently preserved

shipwrecks and the scenic shorelines of Thunder Bay. We'll learn the exciting tales of many famous ships and the history, legends and lore of Lake Huron.

Lunch today will be a special treat at Stoney Acres Winery. Stoney Acres Winery was established in 1999 and is proud to offer a unique wine tasting experience. Gourmet candies and confections are created on-site at the winery. Satisfy your sweet tooth while here.

Our day continues back at the Thunder Bay resort where we will be treated to an elk viewing carriage ride that will take us to dinner at the Elk Antler Log Cabin. Elk viewing at

Thunder Bay Resort is a magical experience - like stepping back in time to the 1800s. It is literally "over the river and through the woods" on carriages pulled by massive teams of draft horses and into the heavily wooded 160 acre Anchor Creek Elk Preserve to view the majestic Rocky Mountain elk.



Marvel at the size and grace of the bulls with their massive antlers and cows with their fast growing spotted calves. Every season has unique appeals and the fall mating season behaviors of dominant bulls - bugling, fighting and coating themselves in mud, against a backdrop of fall colors will be a highlight of this tour. The Log Cabin is a dining venue filled with antiques and trophy mounts as well as a massive fieldstone fireplace and two antique wood cook stoves. Conversation through our gourmet dinner will most likely be centered on Elk.

Traveling home on Wednesday and weather permitting, we will enjoy an afternoon break at Michigan's largest spring, Kitch-iti-kipi, named "Mirror of Heaven" by the early Indians. This is an enjoyable and unforgettable stop.

COST PER PERSON:

Double.....	\$595.00	Triple	\$560.00
Quad.....	\$535.00	Single	\$680.00

Tour includes: Deluxe motorcoach transportation, three nights' accommodations, three breakfasts, three meals (lunches or dinners), and all admissions and scheduled services.

Departure time from Medford	6:00 a.m.
Approximate return time	7:00 p.m.