Lake Michigan Adventure Tour
August 19-22, 2020
4-day, 3-night tour
$799

Attractions include a trip across Lake Michigan aboard the SS Badger, Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Big Sable Lighthouse, and Rogers Street Fishing Village.

To register for this tour, call (800) 692-1828 or visit hsmichigan.org/programs

*Price is per person based on double occupancy. Includes motor coach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; most lunches; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. HSM membership required.
Michigan hosts more than 113 million tourists every year, and our inland seas rank among our chief attractions. Who wouldn’t want to visit the beautiful and historic Great Lakes region? Our Michiganders on the Road™ Lake Michigan Adventure Tour explores some of the Great Lakes’ premier maritime history sites, including the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, the Big Sable Point Lighthouse, and the Rogers Street Fishing Village. We’ll cross Lake Michigan twice aboard the SS Badger—a vessel listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

We’ll depart promptly on Wednesday morning for Ludington from our office in Lansing aboard a 56-passenger Compass motor coach. Compass’s motor coaches feature comfortable seating, a bathroom on board, space for carry-on luggage, cargo bays for suitcases, and even electrical outlets for charging cell phones and e-book readers.

Bob Myers, our director of education, will lead the tour. Bob has many years of experience with bus tours and plans every detail of the trip himself. As a result, our Michiganders on the Road tours are unique to the Historical Society of Michigan.

We have three en-route boarding locations to make things more convenient: Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Norton Shores, on the south edge of Muskegon. Individuals who board in Lansing can leave their vehicles in HSM’s parking lot. The latter two locations are Michigan Department of Transportation Park and Ride lots. If you live in those areas, you can meet the bus there and leave your car in the lot during the trip. As always, Bob’s traveling companion, Cluck the Rubber Chicken, will supervise the motor coach stops.

We’ll arrive in Ludington in time for lunch, which is included with the tour, at Brenda’s Harbor Cafe. After lunch, we head over to the nearby Port of Ludington Maritime Museum.

The new Port of Ludington Maritime Museum wowed us at the 2019 Michigan History Conference, so we decided that it was a “must see” for our tour. The museum fills Ludington’s former U.S. Coast Guard Station, a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its exhibits bring the region’s maritime history to life with digital storytelling and amazing interactive displays. The three-story museum overlooks Lake Michigan and is chockablock with artifacts, photographs, and other images. Operated by the Mason County Historical Society, the museum allows visitors to immerse themselves in stories of Michigan’s inland seas.

After working up an appetite touring the wonderful museum, we’ll head for dinner at one of the area’s top eateries—Scotty’s Restaurant in Ludington. It offers excellent food and is a genuine institution in the city. Salt pork and ship’s biscuits might be authentic fare, but we’ve arranged a top-notch dinner at Scotty’s for us. Historical authenticity is fine, but only to a limit!

You’ll notice that all the restaurants on our tour are locally owned, not chains. Bob says that you can go to a chain restaurant anytime, so when you’re on a Michiganders on the
Road tour, you have to display your inner fortitude and sample the local cuisine. All of the dinners include an entrée; dessert; and coffee, tea, or soft drink. We cover the waitstaff tips too. You're welcome to have a bottle of grog—this is, after all, a maritime tour—or a glass of beer or wine, if you prefer, but you're on your own for that!

We'll be tuckered out after our evening feast and a full day of touring, so we'll repair to the Comfort Inn in Ludington for the night. Like all of the hotels on our tours, the Comfort Inn offers a complimentary breakfast in the morning.

Our early-morning departure today is at the uncivilized hour of 7:45 a.m., but there's good reason for it: we're catching the SS Badger to cross Lake Michigan to Wisconsin.

Designated as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of Interior in 2016, the Badger is literally a moving historic and cultural icon of Michigan. She is the last coal-fired passenger steamship in operation in the United States and has been crossing Lake Michigan for nearly 70 years.

The Badger was built in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, in 1952 for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway and entered service the following spring. She and her sister ship, the SS Spartan—named after the Wisconsin State University Badgers and Michigan State University Spartans—were built to carry railroad cars, passengers, and autos and trucks across Lake Michigan. The Badger carried her last railroad cars in 1990 and now sails between Ludington and Manitowoc, transporting vehicles and passengers. The 410-foot ship can accommodate 600 passengers, as well as vehicles ranging from motorcycles to our own motor coach.

It’s a delight to cross Lake Michigan on the Badger. The historic vessel has its own museum exhibits and a galley for food and drink to enjoy during the passage. The trip takes four hours, and you can experience the Great Lakes from the deck, relax at a table in the aft cabana room, watch free TV or movies, or pick up a souvenir in the Badger Boatique Gift Shop. TripAdvisor has given the Badger a Certificate of Excellence, and Travelocity gives it a five-star rating.

We’ll spend all afternoon at one of America’s top history destinations: the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.

The Badger arrives in Manitowoc at noon, Central Time. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum stands directly across the Manitowoc River from the Badger dock and offers a vast array of exhibits on Great Lakes maritime history and nautical archaeology. The museum is housed in a 16,000-square-foot facility constructed in 1991. It’s the largest maritime museum on the Great Lakes—and the only one with a Smithsonian Institution affiliation.

We’ve arranged a special program on the collections from one of the museum curators that will be presented just for our group. After that, we’ll be turned loose to explore the museum’s exhibits.
We’ll also tour the museum’s largest artifact, the WWII submarine USS *Cobia*. The *Cobia* is a Gato-class sub, which is the same class of submarine that was built in Manitowoc during the war. Launched in 1943, the *Cobia* carried out six patrols before the war ended. She served as a training vessel after the war until she was decommissioned in 1970. She became part of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in 1986 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dinner tonight is at the Courthouse Pub in Manitowoc, which stands just a couple of blocks away from the *Badger* dock. It’s a fun microbrewery and restaurant, located in a mid-nineteenth century building that originated as Willinger’s Beer Hall and became the Court Café during Prohibition.

After dinner, we’ll repair to the Baymont by Wyndham Manitowoc Lakefront hotel, located right at the entrance to Manitowoc Harbor and next door to the Maritime Museum.

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This morning, we’ll take a short drive north along Lake Michigan to Two Rivers and the Rogers Street Fishing Village. There, we’ll find the Great Lakes Coast Guard Museum, featuring shipwreck and commercial fishing exhibits and an 1886 lighthouse. The museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located at the headquarters of the Two Rivers Commercial Fishing Fleet. Shipwreck artifacts include items from the 177-foot passenger steamer *Vernon*, which sank in 1887 with only a single survivor, and the legendary “Christmas Tree Ship” *Rouse Simmons*, a Chicago-bound schooner that went down in 1912 with all hands and her cargo of Christmas trees.

We’ll enjoy a bag lunch, which is included, on our way back to Manitowoc, where we’ll board the SS *Badger* for the return trip to Ludington. Dinner in Ludington is at P.M. Steamers, another of the city’s great local restaurants. Our night’s lodging is back at the Comfort Inn in Ludington.

What’s a maritime tour without a lighthouse? This morning, we’ll visit one of Michigan’s most spectacular lighthouses: the Big Sable Point Light. Built nine miles north of Ludington in 1866 and 1867 and standing 112 feet tall, it ranks among the tallest lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Its third-order Fresnel lens cast a light visible for 19 miles. A 14-foot-long covered passageway connected the tower with a brick keeper’s dwelling.

Modern navigation equipment rendered the Big Sable Point Lighthouse obsolete, and the Coast Guard discontinued its use in 1968. Now owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the lighthouse is leased by the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association and open for tours during the summer.
Except when bus transportation is available on a few days each year, getting to the lighthouse requires visitors to make a 1½-mile walk from Ludington State Park. We’ve arranged special buses for our group so that we can drive to the lighthouse for a tour. You can explore the buildings and grounds, as well as climb the tower for a spectacular view of the Lake Michigan coast.

After our lighthouse tour, we return to Ludington for lunch, also included, at another famous Ludington eatery, the Kuntry Kubbard Restaurant.

We’ll depart Ludington in the early afternoon for our return trip to Lansing, with drop-offs along the way in Norton Shores and Grand Rapids.

We’re enormously excited about our Lake Michigan Maritime Adventure Tour. We think it’s one of our best tours yet, and we can’t wait to take you on this journey through the past.

We hope you can join us for our

Lake Michigan Adventure Tour

Give us a call at (800) 692-1828 or e-mail us at hsm@hsmichigan.org if you have any questions.
Yes! I (we) want to join Michiganders on the Road™ for the Lake Michigan Adventure Tour for $799* per person.

*Includes motor coach transportation; all lodging; all dinners and breakfasts; most lunches; and all admission fees, taxes, and gratuities. Historical Society of Michigan $39.95 membership required. Price is per person based on double occupancy. We encourage the purchase of travel insurance in case unforeseen events force you to cancel at the last minute. Deposits or payments made after the reservation deadline of July 8, 2020, cannot be refunded.

Are you a member of the Historical Society of Michigan? (Membership is required to participate in this tour.)

- Yes, I am already a member.
- I want to become a member for $39.95 so I can go on this tour. This membership includes Michigan History magazine.
- I am a single person and would like single-room accommodations. I understand there will be a $220 surcharge for this service.
- I am a single person and would like to be paired with another single of the same gender so that my reservation can be based on double occupancy.
- I am a single person, and I am traveling with ___________________________ so that my reservation can be based on double occupancy.
- I would like to have vegetarian meals.
- A check for $________________________ is enclosed, payable to Historical Society of Michigan.
- Please charge $________________________ to my credit card listed below.

Mail or fax this form to:
Historical Society of Michigan • 7435 Westshire Drive • Lansing, MI 48917 • Fax: (517) 324-4370