

On the Shores of the Great Lakes

Illinois - Wisconsin - Minnesota - Michigan

Note: Option to start in Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; or Detroit, Michigan



Chicago, Illinois

Chicago, Illinois, the Midwest's cultural capital, is a family-friendly destination. Millennium Park is a must-visit for year-round events and world-class public art, and the Navy Pier offers amusement park rides, shopping and dining. The Field Museum of Natural History and the Shedd Aquarium are among the largest museums of their kind in the world. Art aficionados can peruse a collection of more than 300,000 objects at the Art Institute of Chicago. Visitors can take a boat cruise along the Chicago River and into Lake Michigan to view the spectacular skyline, or get a panoramic perspective at 360 Chicago, on the 94th floor of the John Hancock Center. The bravest of souls can experience TILT, a glass observation cubicle that leans out at a 30-degree angle high above Michigan Avenue. *Accommodation: Chicago, Illinois*

Chicago, Illinois, to Madison, Wisconsin

Drive to Madison, Wisconsin's state capital and an active and outdoors-focused city. Walk, bike, snowshoe or ski along scenic trails at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. Visit Taliesin, famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece in Spring Green. Get a taste of Madison's burgeoning beer scene on a brewery tour, then savour a meal at a waterfront restaurant along Lake Mendota or Lake Monona. Finish the trip with time on the water by hiring a stand-up paddleboard, paddleboat or kayak, or just relaxing on a boat tour. *Accommodation: Madison, Wisconsin*

Madison, Wisconsin, to Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

Continue your travels northwest across Wisconsin, heading to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in Minnesota. Along the way visit Wisconsin Dells and see the Wisconsin River. Discover the spectacular views of the Lower and Upper Dells from a boat tour. Upon arrival in the Twin Cities, put on your walking shoes and explore Minneapolis' stunning Chain of Lakes area, which includes scenic walking trails around Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet and others. Rehydrate with a pint at one of the city's many breweries such as Fulton Brewery (one of the area's most popular craft breweries). Enjoy dinner at a downtown Minneapolis restaurant before taking in a performance at the award-winning Guthrie Theater. *Accommodation: Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.*

Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

Start with a stroll through the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (don't miss the iconic *Spoonbridge and Cherry* sculpture) and visit the Walker Art Center. Root for the home team at a Minnesota Twins baseball game at Target Field or set aside a day to tour the Mall of America, a huge shopping mall packed with 400-plus shops, restaurants and entertainment venues, including an aquarium and indoor amusement park. Cross the Mississippi River to Minneapolis' 'twin', St. Paul, to see Minnesota's Capitol Building, festooned with golden horses, then walk along Summit Avenue to see the city's historic mansions. While there, save time to explore the well-curated, interactive Science Museum of Minnesota. *Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota*

Minneapolis/St. Paul to Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Travel north through Minnesota, known as the 'Land of 10,000 Lakes', to Grand Rapids. Here you'll find small-town charm surrounded by Minnesota's nature. You'll discover a truly unique north woods experience, filled with abundant outdoor adventures, scenic beauty, preserved heritage and vibrant arts and entertainment. The Grand Rapids area offers a wide variety of dining and boutique shopping opportunities. *Accommodation: Grand Rapids, Minnesota*

Grand Rapids, Minnesota, to Bayfield, Wisconsin

Return to Wisconsin by way of Bayfield, gateway to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and one of the Midwest's best-kept secrets. The Apostle Islands in Lake Superior are a haven for outdoors enthusiasts. Join a boat tour or guided paddling tour to see sculpted rock formations, abundant wildlife, lighthouses and sea caves – or linger on an island to hike and camp. If winter is especially cold, the lake may freeze enough for visitors to take an ice sled tour or drive their cars across the ice, and lucky visitors may have an opportunity to see amazing ice cliffs and caves. In warmer weather, regular ferry service delivers travellers to the quaint small town of La Pointe on Madeline Island. *Accommodation: Ashland, Wisconsin*

Bayfield, Wisconsin, to Marquette, Michigan

Head to Michigan and explore the picturesque Keweenaw Peninsula, located along the shores of Lake Superior. Visit the Delaware Mine in Delaware and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park in Copper Harbor. A stop en route at The Jampot, located in Eagle Harbor, is a must. Operated by the monks of Holy Transfiguration Skete, this bakery and gift shop offers preserves, fruitcakes and fresh bakery confections. Continue past the L'Anse Indian Reservation to Marquette, Michigan. *Accommodation: Marquette, Michigan*

Marquette to St. Ignace, Michigan

Follow Scenic State Road 28 to Munising, Michigan. Take a cruise on Lake Michigan along Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Although less well-known than other national parks, Pictured Rocks is among the country's most spectacular natural treasures. The lakeshore earned its name from the colourful streaks of minerals layered in the sandstone cliffs. In winter, the lake water freezes, often transforming itself into awesome ice formations against the cliffs. Take time to visit the historic lighthouse at Au Sable Light Station on the way to Tahquamenon Falls State Park near Newberry to see two striking waterfalls on the Tahquamenon River before arriving at St. Ignace.

Accommodation: St. Ignace, Michigan



Mackinac Island, Michigan

St. Ignace/Mackinac Island, Michigan

Tucked between Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas, the entirety of Mackinac Island is a National Historic Landmark, nearly all of it protected as a state park. The ferry that runs from the mainland operates on a seasonal schedule, with limited service in the winter. Slow down and experience this destination, which takes visitors back in time. The Victorian architecture, absence of chain hotels and island-wide ban on cars makes it feel like a throwback to a simpler era. Walk, bike or take a horse-drawn carriage to get around. *Accommodation: St. Ignace, Michigan*

St. Ignace to Detroit, Michigan

Head south to Detroit, where the city centre of the 'Motor City' has been revitalised with trendy restaurants, shops and cultural venues. The must-see Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, just outside of Detroit in Dearborn, Michigan, houses cars, planes and rare items such as former President John F. Kennedy's limousine and the Rosa Parks bus. See where music icons including Stevie Wonder, the Supremes and Marvin Gaye recorded hits at the Motown Museum. View the works of artistic masters at the Detroit Institute of Arts, best known for its frescoes by Diego Rivera. Explore the aquarium, zoo, museum, beach and other areas of Belle Isle Park; admission to most of the attractions is free with park admission. Nightlife abounds in the city, with gaming at three hotel-casinos and live Jazz at Cliff Bell's legendary nightclub.

Accommodation: Detroit/Dearborn, Michigan



Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, Michigan

Detroit to Saugatuck, Michigan

Head west to Ann Arbor, home of the University of Michigan and beautiful views of the Huron River. Ann Arbor's Main Street is considered among the best in the USA, attracting visitors throughout the year. Your next stop will be Grand Rapids, gateway to Michigan's 'Gold Coast' and calling itself 'America's best beer town', with more than 40 breweries on its Beer City Ale Trail. The final stop today is Saugatuck, a charming artists' colony and tourist destination since the 1800s. Take a stroll to the harbour,



stopping in the art galleries and shops of this historic lakeside town. *Accommodation:*
Saugatuck, Michigan

Saugatuck, Michigan, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Travel north along the Michigan lakeshore to the resort city of Muskegon, then take the Lake Express Ferry across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Wisconsin's largest city, Milwaukee continues to celebrate its beer brewing heritage while expanding its appeal with a powerhouse arts scene, big-city attractions, revitalised historic districts and a vibrant farm-to-table culinary scene. Calling itself the 'City of Festivals', Milwaukee is home to many summer festivals, including Summerfest, the world's largest music festival. Explore one-of-a-kind attractions such as the Milwaukee Art Museum, Miller Park and the Harley-Davidson Museum. Experience the city's brewing heritage on tours offered by MillerCoors and local microbreweries such as the Lakefront Brewery, Milwaukee Brewing Company and Sprecher Brewing Company (also a great option for children, thanks to their craft sodas). *Accommodation:*
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Chicago, Illinois

Return to Chicago along the Lake Michigan shoreline to further explore this amazing city. Visit some of Chicago's iconic attractions such as the *Cloud Gate* sculpture (aka, 'The Bean') and enjoy deep-dish pizza at Gino's East or Lou Malnati's or a Chicago hot dog at locations throughout the city. Delve into Chicago's thriving craft-brewery scene with a tour and a pint at a neighbourhood brewery such as Half Acre Beer Company. *Accommodation: Chicago, Illinois*

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