Great Lakes Lighthouse Tour

SAMPLE ITINERARY



Day 1 • Duluth, MN
Our tour begins with our afternoon arrival at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, where we meet our tour guide. We board our coach for a drive through rural Minnesota to Duluth. This port city sits on the shores of Lake Superior. We check into our hotel with time to relax before a group dinner. **D**

Day 2 • Duluth, MN
We see the first of over 25 lighthouses today. After breakfast, we start at the Minnesota Point Lighthouse right in Duluth. Built in 1858, it was the first lighthouse in the state. The lighthouse was designed to mark the point where the St. Louis River flowed into Lake Superior, and the natural dividing line between Minnesota and Wisconsin. The keepers left the lighthouse in 1894, and the structure has fallen into a sad state of disrepair, despite being on the National Register of Historic Places. From here, we head to the more lively Two Harbors Lighthouse. This is the oldest operating lighthouse in the state. It was built in 1892 to help guide the large ore ships plying the lake. We are able to see the tower, the assistant keeper's house, pilot house and fog house. The main keeper's house is used as a B&B. Our third stop is the Grand Marais Lighthouse and Artist Point, so named for the artists who used to set up their easels among the large rocks on the shore to paint the lake and the lighthouse. The lighthouse sits at the end of this promenade, while the original keeper's house is used as the historical society museum on the shore. We also stop at the Lake Superior Trading Post for unique gifts and snacks. Our last lighthouse is Split Rock. Its natural setting and easy access make it one of the most photographed sites in the area. The visitor center shows films and exhibits, with many of the outbuildings open for visits (in season). We return to Duluth where we are free to explore the city and have dinner on our own. The Canal District is a great lakeside area with many retail and restaurant options. **B**

Day 3 • Marquette, WI
We check out of the hotel after breakfast and drive through northern Wisconsin to the Apostle Islands. We board a cruise to see many of the 22 islands of the group, spectacular scenery and two of the lighthouses, Raspberry and Devil Island Lights. Back on firm ground, we visit the Bayfield Maritime Museum, full of seafaring artifacts and exhibits on the dynamic shipping industry in the area. Then it's a ride along the south side of Lake Superior to Marquette. We have comfort stops along the way, and a "must-do" stop at Da Yoopers Tourist Trap in Ishpeming. When we arrive in Marquette we have dinner as a group. We might catch the sunset over the lake at Marquette Harbor Lighthouse. **B/D**

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Motor coach transportation
- 10 meals
- 9 days / 8 nights
- Professional tour director
- Local guide services
- All attraction & activities per the itinerary
- Assistance with luggage handling
- Taxes and gratuities on included meals, hotels, & activities (excludes gratuities for coach driver & tour director)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Minnesota Point Lighthouse
- Two Harbors Lighthouse
- Grand Marais Lighthouse and Artist Point
- Split Rock Lighthouse
- Apostle Island Cruise
- Bayfield Maritime Museum
- Da Yoopers Tourist Trap
- Marquette Harbor Lighthouse and Museum
- Keewenaw Peninsula
- Glass Bottom Boat Ride
- Mackinac Island
- McGulpin Lighthouse
- Cruise on Lake Huron

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Day 4 • Marquette, WI

Our first stop is the bright red Marquette Harbor Lighthouse and museum. From here, we head to the Keewenaw Peninsula. There are eight lighthouses on the peninsula, and another seven on Isle Royale off the shore. Our choice for those to visit are Sandy Hill, the octagonal Keewenaw Waterway Lower Light (viewed from the end of the pier) and the museum complex at the Eagle River Lighthouse. We stop briefly at the Big Bay Lighthouse, which is not only an operational beacon, but also a bed and breakfast. We return to Marquette where we have dinner on our own. **B**

Day 5 • To Mackinaw City, MI

We're on the move again, as we head east to Munising. We take a glass bottom boat ride to see some of the many shipwrecks in the lake. The cruise also passes by the privately owned Grand Harbor Lighthouse. After we return, we are able to see the Munising Front Range Light on shore, and get a glimpse of the Rear Range Light on the top of the hill. We continue to Au Sable Lighthouse, which is a 1.5-mile walk from the parking area, or Grand Marais Lighthouse, a less impressive but more accessible light located off a pier in the marina. We continue to cross over the Mackinac Bridge to Mackinaw City where we have dinner on our own (we stop at an outdoor mall with several dining options). **B**

Day 6 • Mackinaw City, MI

Today we step back in time as we visit Mackinac Island. No cars are allowed on the island, so we board a ferry to swing past the "Mighty Mac" bridge before arriving at the busy harbor front. We are met by horse-drawn carriages for a guided tour with stops throughout the island. There is free time to enjoy some shopping, see local fudge and candy being made, rent a bike for more touring or just enjoy a leisurely lunch. We return to our hotel in the evening for a visit to the McGulpin Lighthouse and dinner on our own. **B**

Day 7 • Mackinaw City, MI

This morning we take a cruise on Lake Huron to see the lighthouses that dot the shore: Round Island, Big Blanc, Poe Reef, Fourteen Shoals and Cheboygan Crib. When we return to shore we visit Mackinaw Lighthouse. Later, our coach makes several stops for a self-guided tour*(fee applies)* to Colonial Michilimackinac, the municipal beach, The Crossings shopping mall and the hotel. Dinner is on our own. **B**

Day 8 • Eau Claire, WI

We head west along the southern shore of the Upper Peninsula with a stop in Manistique to see the Manistique East Breakwater Lighthouse in the harbor and a longer visit to Seul Choix Point Lighthouse Museum in Gulliver.We continue our drive to Sand Point Lighthouse in Escanaba. Later this afternoon we head to Grassy Island Lighthouse in Green Bay and the nearby Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Pierhead and Kewaunee Lighthouses. We continue to our overnight near Eau Claire, with a dinner stop along the way. **B**

Day 9 • To MSP International Airport

After breakfast, we head to the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport for our afternoon flights home. We leave with great memories of the Great Lakes. **B**

Payment Schedule

- A deposit of $500 per person is due with reservation.
- Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Refund/Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 120 days before departure, a $100/person administrative fee plus any land penalties will be assessed. From 119-46 days, a $300/person cancellation penalty plus any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Anyone canceling less than 45 days prior to departure will receive no refund.

We strongly recommend the purchase of and offer optional travel insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption.