

Developing Itinerary

Mackinac Island, MI,

June 23-26, 2025

Day 1 – Monday – Say Yes! To Pure Michigan! Arrive at St. Stephen Church parking lot (17500 S. 84th Ave, Tinley Park) at **6:30am**, prepare for a **7:00am departure** time. This morning we'll travel through Indiana & lower Michigan with a continental breakfast served at the Welcome to Michigan Rest Area and enjoy some of our famous fun bus games on our journey. We'll continue traveling north through the beautiful greenery of lower Michigan. Our lunch stop is near the Cadillac area. We continue traveling after lunch toward the 5-mile-long Mackinac Bridge. The "Mighty Mac" bridge is one of the world's longest suspension bridges. As we cross over to the upper peninsula our evening stay is in St. Ignace. We'll check in at our waterfront hotel. This evening we'll enjoy a great dinner and get better acquainted. We'll also have an optional stop at the Kewadin Casino before returning to our hotel for the evening. (There is also shuttle bus service back to the hotel if you want more time or are on a winning streak!) (B,D)

Day 2 – Tuesday – Remember, adjust your clocks, we're now observing Michigan time! Continental breakfast at the Hotel. We'll **load our luggage at 7:45am** and prepare for an **8am departure** for our **9am** - 20-minute ferry ride across the waters of the Straits of Mackinac. We'll have a couple of minutes to drop off any carry-on items at the hotel, then we'll board a horse drawn carriage tour of Mackinac Island. Then get ready for the fabulous Luncheon Buffet at the Grand Hotel. Afterwards you are encouraged to tour the Grand Hotel and the largest hotel porch in the world. **Rooms at the Lakeview Hotel on Main Street will be ready between 3pm & 4pm.** The rest of our day is free time on the Island...shop, tour, ride bikes, horses, carriages.... enjoy the sites (B, Grand Hotel Lunch Buffet)

Day 3 – Wednesday – Today we have an entire day of leisure to explore Mackinac Island. You can use your Ryba's Gift Card at your choice of breakfast establishments listed. **Please have your luggage ready for the luggage pull at 9:30am, place luggage right outside your door.** Small carry-on items can be stored at hotel luggage room until our departure later in the evening. Take time to browse the many Main Street shops, visit historic Fort Mackinac, rent bikes at your leisure or join with our group for an (optional) organized leisurely 8-mile group bike ride around the Island. We pedal along the coast of Lake Huron circling around the Island. Or, just enjoy a stroll of the beautifully landscaped cottages of the Island and take in the beautiful sight and aroma of the Lilacs. Don't forget to sample the world-famous Mackinac Island fudge. Mackinac Island is where the charm of a bygone era is preserved. No automobiles and nothing to intrude on the serenity and natural beauty of the Island. Enjoy your day of leisure. We gather back together at the hotel at 4:45pm (or meet us at the restaurant) and then enjoy a group **dinner party at 5pm at the Yankee Rebel, 1493 Astor Street, Mackinac Island.** After dinner we'll board our **Shepler's Ferry** back to the mainland and enjoy the evening back at our waterfront Hotel. Walk the lakeshore or relax on your balcony with a view the Island, just across the lake. (B,D)

Day 4– Thursday – This morning, we'll gather again for a hotel breakfast and prepare to journey back home. We'll begin our journey home heading again through scenic Michigan with fond memories of our time at Mackinac Island. We'll have lunch in lower Michigan en route to our St. Stephen's home. (B)