

WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

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THE GRAND TOUR! MACKINAC ISLAND & NIAGARA FALLS

with Women of the Midwest

October 8-15, 2021



Dear Women of the Midwest,

I welcome you to travel with me on a Grand Adventure. We'll visit two iconic landmarks in the Northeast - one formed by the glaciers 10,000 years ago, and one manmade – The Grand Hotel.

Join me on October 8-15, 2021 for 8 days in the Great Lakes area of the United States. We'll journey to Mackinac Island, for a two night stay, where we'll savor the romantic history of the Grand Hotel. Harkening to the Victorian Age in architecture and design, you can slow down and sip a drink on the longest porch in the world. You can go back in time as you recall scenes from Somewhere In Time, with Christopher Reeve. (filmed here in 1980). No cars are allowed on the island, so once we arrive by ferry, we'll enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride, and you can go for walks or bicycle rides on the secluded paths in your free time. Oh, did I mention the island is famous for their fudge? A great place to buy your goodies to take back home to friends.

We will visit museums, Bavarian style shops in the German settlement of Frankenmuth, dine at the top of the world in the Skylon Tower and so much more.

And, of course in our traverse around the Great Lakes Area we will end up at the majestic Niagara Falls where we'll spend two nights and see the falls and area scenic sights. Come, join me, solo or two-by-two, on this Grand and historic adventure with Women of the Midwest.

Sincerely,
Lora Black
Women of the Midwest Ambassador



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.



October 8, 2021 (Friday) - Arrival to Dearborn, Detroit

Our wonderful adventure begins as we fly to Detroit, MI, where we will spend our first two nights. Upon arrival, we meet our local tour director who will be traveling alongside from our arrival to our departure from Buffalo, NY. We have arranged a transfer to our hotel in Dearborn and the remainder of the day is yours to relax and unwind. A welcome dinner is included tonight. D

What's so special about Dearborn?

Dearborn has a large community of descendants of ethnic Europeans who arrived as immigrants from the mid-19th into the 20th century. Their ancestors generally first settled in Detroit: Irish, German, Italians, and Polish. It is also a center of a Maltese American settlement from the quaint Mediterranean island of Malta. Different languages have been spoken for ages in this area and when the kids played out in the streets, the mothers would come out to call them in for the night in many different languages.

But there's more to Dearborn! Auto pioneer Henry Ford wasn't a home builder, but when his workers in Dearborn needed housing a century ago, the automaker switched gears. He built houses. Between 1919 and 1920, Ford and his team built 250 homes just west of downtown Dearborn, in what is now known as the Ford Homes Historic District, to provide housing for workers at a nearby tractor plant. The Ford Homes Historic District has its roots in World War I. With Britain engulfed in the war and Germans blocking the country's food supply chain, tractors were in demand for the British to grow their own food. Few were being built, so Henry Ford was asked to build tractors in quantity. He built the Fordson Tractor Plant which opened in 1917, employing 4,000 workers. But housing was an issue. Rents were very high in Dearborn and workers often had to ride into the city from Detroit on the interurban railway for an hour. Ford's personal secretary, Ernest Liebold, had a suggestion: Ford should build houses for his workers. And so he did!

October 9, 2021 (Saturday) - Ford Factory and Village

After a hearty breakfast, we will take a short drive to visit the famous River Rouge* Plant, a modern marvel of 21st-century manufacturing where Ford F-150 trucks are built. The Plant was built between 1917 and 1925 and became the model for assembly-line production, turning parts at one end into finished cars at the other!

Next, we will visit the Henry Ford Museum. This museum is known as the greatest auto collection documenting the American experience. See the Rosa Parks bus, the chair in which Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, the limousine where President Kennedy was shot, and much more. We will also visit Greenfield Village, established

by Henry Ford in 1929 as a living history museum to celebrate American spirit from Pioneer days to modern times. Naturally, we will ride in a Model T (or "Tin Lizzie") car today, generally regarded as the first affordable automobile, which made car travel available to middle-class Americans. The late afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy at leisure. Even if you are not a car buff by nature, we guarantee you will find your drive today! B

***The history of River Rouge:**

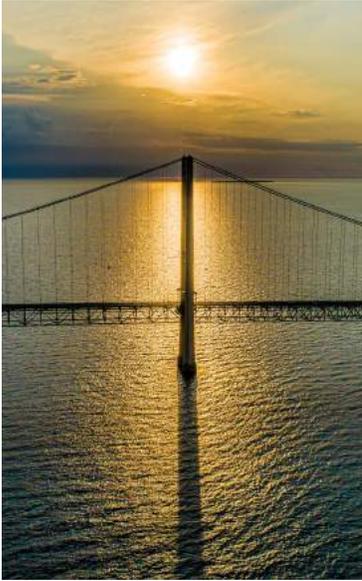
After having been stationed as the commandant at Fort Michilimackinac, the most important of the outer fur trading posts between Quebec and Montreal, French Lt. Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac (yes, quite a name!) devised a plan to preserve the French fur trade in the Americas. In hopes of preventing the English from gaining control over the fur trade, Cadillac returned to France to garner backing for his idea which centered on developing a new fort where Lake St. Clair pours into Lake Erie. He believed the location to be extremely strategic as it would give France control of the entire upper lakes region as the most efficient form of inland transportation utilized waterways. Cadillac received the necessary backing from the French government under the rule of Louis XIV, and in 1701, he landed at what is now recognized as the city of Detroit (French for "détroit" meaning "the strait"). As the Detroit settlement began to expand, it did so along the rivers, north and south, along the Detroit River and the Rouge River (French for "red river"). The descendants of Cadillac and those who first accompanied him, became a large part of the population that made up the area that was to become River Rouge.

October 10, 2021 (Sunday) - Mackinac Island

We enjoy a rich breakfast before our journey continues northbound to Mackinac Island. Today's adventure includes a 16-minute ferry ride in the shadow of the Mackinac Bridge, one of the world's most beautiful bridges. Arriving you will be greeted with the sights and sounds of the Victorian era, where transportation was by horse-drawn carriage or bicycle. We get ready to step back in time for two nights at The Grand Hotel, Mackinac's finest and most famous resort property. Lunch is served en route today and our beautiful hotel provides an elegant dining experience this evening. Welcome to Mackinac Island! B | L | D

October 11, 2021 (Monday) - Mackinac Island

Breakfast with the most amazing views is served before we are off to a scenic, horse-drawn carriage tour of the island and the West Bluff Victorian homes. Don't be camera-shy; today is day to get some of the best photos on this entire journey. The afternoon is free to enjoy and explore the quaint town and its simple life. Eighty percent of Mackinac Island is parkland and if a golf cart is too modern for you, how about getting around by horse and buggy or by a rented bike? Don't forget to swing by one (or more!) of the 14 fudge shops downtown. More



than 10,000 pounds of fudge is daily slabbed on marble allowing the fudge to cool evenly and quickly giving it a unique flavor and creating a great show too. Or visit the fascinating butterfly conservatory, the Wings of Mackinac, to watch the butterflies eat dried fruits and nectar. A lovely experience! Dinner is served at our beautiful hotel. B | D

October 12, 2021 (Tuesday) - Frankenmuth

After breakfast, we will take the ferry back to the mainland. We will cross the Mighty Mac, one of the world's longest suspension bridges, and find ourselves in Frankenmuth a little later in the day. You will love this small city settled by Germans from the Bavarian region. Streets lined with Bavarian-style shops including Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and Frankenmuth River Place with more than forty specialty shops. If you love cheese, a visit to the Cheese Haus is a must, and if you are a pet-lover, you shouldn't miss "Hello Cats and Dogs" featuring an extensive collection of unique items dedicated to cats and dogs. It is such a fun experience and they even have a "Barkery" filled with tasty treats and locally-made puppy pretzel. Ohh, and the Clock Company ... it specializes in authentic, handcrafted German items, including Black Forest cuckoo clocks, miniature clocks, nutcrackers, and holiday ornaments. So, save some space in your bags for this day in Frankenmuth! B

October 13, 2021 (Wednesday) - Niagara Falls

After a filling breakfast, we head east into Ontario, Canada, to the Niagara Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. We make a stop to see and experience the IMAX movie "Niagara: Miracles, Myths & Magic". Next, we are off to enjoy the unique "Journey behind the Falls". We descend 125 feet and through 130-year-old tunnels carved through the bedrock, we reach the observation deck for an up-close (and possibly a little bit wet) view of the falls. To stand at the heart of Niagara, at the foot of this 13-story-tall wonder, will leave you breathless and you will feel the thunderous vibration of the Horseshoe Falls long before you see them. Don't forget the viewing portals cut straight through the rock, offering a once-in-a-lifetime view of one-fifth of the world's freshwater crashing down in front of you. Iconic yellow ponchos are handed out, keeping you dry. Those are recycled after the usage but you'll probably want to take it home as a keepsake. We check in to our hotel in the late afternoon for two nights in Niagara Falls. If you are up to even more today, we recommend a walk on the Rainbow Bridge for more impressive views of the Falls. The walk from one side of the other only takes 5 minutes, it is a short, but stunning, 1,500 feet each way! B

Canadian side is where you get gorgeous panoramas of both the American Falls and the mighty Horseshoe Falls and is definitely the more glamorous side of Niagara Falls, thus our two nights spent on the Canadian side. The water flows from streams and rivers that empty into the Great Lakes, from Lake Superior down through Niagara to Lake Ontario, then into the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean.

October 14, 2021 (Thursday) - Niagara Falls

We enjoy our breakfast and then head out to enjoy a day full of incredible Niagara Falls area sightseeing. We will drive the scenic Niagara Parkway with stops at the Hydro Floral Clock and the Horticultural Center. The clock is the largest in the world and has a stunning clockface made of 16,000 carpet bedding plants which are changed twice a year. There is a tower at the back of the clock housing Westminster chimes that greet each quarter-hour. If the door into the tower is open, you can take a glimpse of the clock mechanism and enjoy photographs that show the history of almost every face design all the way back to 1950. We will also drive the Great Gorge River Walk Whirlpool Rapids, Butterfly Conservatory, quaint Niagara-on-the-Lake village, and the Welland ship canal between Erie and Ontario Lakes. A very special farewell dinner is arranged as we ascend Skylon Tower, a revolving restaurant overlooking the Falls. The views don't get any better than this! B | D

October 15, 2021 (Friday) - Return Home

After breakfast, we will motorcoach across the bridge to Niagara Falls, NY, and visit Goat Island, a small island in the middle of the Falls between the Bridal Veil Falls and the Horseshoe Falls. The island got its name from a herd of goats kept by an early pioneer and miller, John Stedman. The animals all died in the terrible winter of 1780, but the name has remained Goat Island ever since, and is a part of the Niagara Falls State Park. Our last adventure is a cruise close to the Falls aboard the famous "Maid of the Mist". The breathtaking, close-up encounter with the awe-inspiring thundering falls is unforgettable. The duration of the boat tour is 20-30 minutes and no matter what you wear today, you will probably get wet, so wear something that dries easily. Our last stop today is at Buffalo airport for our flight back home filled with wonderful memories of a delightful Grand Tour of Macinac Island and Niagara Falls. B

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner
Itinerary subject to change!

About the Falls: Collectively the waterfalls are named Niagara Falls. They consist of three different waterfalls. The American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls in the United States, and the Canadian Horseshoe Falls. The Niagara River serves as an International border. The

A Passport is required for this tour and must be valid for six (6) months beyond the return date of October 15, 2021 (= April 15, 2022).



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508
 Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)
 Fax: 402-435-2735
 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com
 www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:
executivetravel.com/WMWMAC21-WofMidwest

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room:	\$3,295
Per person in a single room (limited rooms):	\$3,995
Per person in a shared triple room*:	\$3,245

*Triple rooms consist of two king beds

Remember our "Pair & Share" service for solo travelers.

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on June 10, 2021, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% fee.

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 travelers. Should the number of travelers fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to the departure date.

Tour Activity for this tour: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour is considered being one of our "active" tours and involves walking as one of the key components. Between walking tours and personal exploration, you can expect to walk 3-5 miles or more over the course of a day typically on pavements but possibly also on gravel roads/paths. Expect some steps too. This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes are recommended.

Accommodation:

3 and 4-star hotels (final accommodation will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure):

- Doubletree by Hilton, Dearborn
- The Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island
- Drury Inn & Suites, Frankenmuth
- Marriott on the Falls, Niagara Falls

Air, included in your package:

Group airfare is included. We are able to reserve air by the end of November 2020 and all registered participants will be informed of the schedule once it becomes available.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to the departure. Premium seating can be purchased additionally and confirmed at this time. Women of the Midwest cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to departure and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft.

If you wish to travel from a different city than Omaha, please let us know and we will make sure to customize your air. A supplement could occur.

Included:

- Airfare, economy class
- 7 overnights at 3- & 4-star hotels
- 7 x breakfast
- 1 x lunch
- 4 x dinner
- All tours and admissions as per tour program
- Transportation with private deluxe motor coach (all our motorcoaches offer one free seat next to you to allow for some nice extra space and comfortable social distancing)
- Baggage handling at hotels (1 checked bag per person)
- Tour host/Women of the Midwest Ambassador
- Professional, local tour director from the arrival to Detroit, MI, to the departure from Buffalo, NY
- All local taxes and fees

Not Included:

- Airline Baggage fees (usually \$30 for first checked bag)
- Gratuities for local tour director
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than mentioned
- Professional fees, \$50.00 per person due at time of reservation
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/scorted-tours

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

GROUP AIR INFORMATION!

Group air, economy class with taxes and fees, is included in your package price.

10/8/2021 Omaha 6:30 AM - Chicago 8:00 AM
10/8/2021 Chicago 10:03 AM - Detroit 12:23 PM
10/15/2021 Buffalo 2:00 PM - Chicago 2:50 PM
10/15/2021 Chicago 7:52 PM - Omaha 9:29 PM

Schedule is subject to change.

Please let us know if you would like to depart and return from/to a different airport than Omaha. We are happy to assist and make sure you meet up with the group in Detroit on October 8, 2021. A small supplement may be applied.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Premium seating (upgrades) can be purchased with United Airlines and confirmed at this time only. Executive Travel cannot confirm precise seat numbers prior to your departure, and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft. We will do our best to meet your preferences.

Important:

Baggage fees for checked bags will be charged by United Airlines upon check-in at the airport. Estimate \$35 for the first checked bag (per way), \$45 for the second checked bag.

THE ABOVE ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO SCHEDULE AND AIRLINE CHANGES!

