

TRI-STATE TRAVEL

Presents

MICHIGAN'S HIDDEN GEMS

(featuring the International Fireworks Championship)

SEPTEMBER 9 - 15, 2026

The Grand Hotel



The State of Michigan is blessed with the riches of unspoiled nature, the nation's largest freshwater coastline, golden beaches, gardens, glorious sunrises/sunsets and endless scenic opportunities.

Day 1: Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Our travels today take us to Saugatuck, MI. Here we will experience one of West Michigan's Premier Attractions, Saugatuck Dune Rides. We board our schooner for 30 minutes of entertainment and fun. We learn of the lost town of Singapore and discover the local vegetation and wildlife. We check into our Grand Rapids, MI hotel. (Managers Reception)

Day 2: Thursday, September 10, 2026

After breakfast we travel the short distance to Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. We board our tram for a tour of the outside gardens. The sculpture program at Frederick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is composed of both a world-renowned permanent collection and dynamic exhibition programs. The permanent collection features more than 180 works, including important works from Auguste Rodin and Edgar Degas, to Henry Moore and Alexander Calder, to Mark di Suvero and Andy Goldsworthy. The greatest concentration of work is featured in a 30-acre sculpture park, which hosts both colossal and more traditional scale works sensitively sited in a natural environment. Following the tram tour, time is allowed to visit the Conservatory. The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory is a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees. Lunch is on our own en route to Sleeping Dunes National Lakeshore. Our guide will join us for a tour of Pierce Stocking Drive, a 7.2-mile scenic route within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore through forest and dune areas. In 2011 Good Morning America viewers voted Sleeping Dunes "The Most Beautiful Place in America." Dinner at The Cottage and entertainment (City Opera House) is included before checking into our Traverse City Hotel for the night.(B,D)

Day 3: Friday, September 11, 2026

Breakfast is included at the hotel. You begin your day with a visit to The Village at Grand Traverse Commons for a fascinating tour of the complex's past as the Traverse City State Hospital. Learn about the Kirkbride Plan architecture, specifically building 50 which embraced the philosophy of "Beauty is Therapy" and the evolution of patient care from the late 19th century to its closure. Today it is an adaptive reuse success story transferred into a vibrant mixed-use development with shops, restaurants, and residences that make the tour a captivating exploration of both preservation efforts and local history. Following our tour time will be allowed to visit the Mercato, Italian for "market". It serves as the bustling indoor marketplace and commercial heart of the Village of Grand Traverse Commons. Lunch is included at Sledgers Family Tavern. Established in 1882 by Bohemian Immigrant Vencil Sleder it stands as Michigan's oldest continuously operating restaurant and a cherished landmark. This afternoon we tour the Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park. Located on the grounds that once served as the working farm for the former Traverse City State Hospital transferring the historic farmland and preserved agricultural structures. Following the tour, we return to the hotel to freshen up for tonight's fireworks. The International Fireworks returns to Traverse City, Michigan, for another spectacular weekend of world-class pyrotechnic displays. The event, held at Turtle Creek Stadium, will feature a new lineup of elite teams from across the globe competing for fireworks supremacy, with each team creating a dazzling "pyro musical" show choreographed perfectly to music. While the list of participating countries has not been announced, the championship is a highly anticipated event that promises to deliver unforgettable artistry and technical brilliance in the sky. (B,L)



Day 4: Saturday, September 12, 2026

After an included breakfast we depart for the Music House Museum. Founded in 1983 the museum offers visitors a journey through the history, artistry and engineering of automated music with a collection spanning from the late 18th century to 1950. After a rest break at Our Lady of the Woods and lunch on our own we make our way to The Farmers Creamery of Michigan. This is a dairy and farm kitchen destination owned and operated by a local Amish community. Established in 2004 the creamery prides itself on producing 100% grass fed dairy products from small, sustainable farms. An ice cream treat is included. Fairview Organic Maple Sugar Farm is our next stop. Take a short stroll through the Sugar Bush and see the original Sugar Shack built in the early 1900's by the Amish family that settled the land. Learn the modern techniques Tim and Judy Boonstra used to tap over 2,500 maple trees with tubing and vacuuming. Don't forget to sample one of Judy's Maple Syrup Cookies. We now make our way to our accommodations for the night, Thunder Bay Resort. This evening step back in time as you board a horse drawn carriage that takes you over the Thunder Bay River and into the woods. Enjoy the scenery, the smell of pine, and the ever-changing face of the Thunder Bay River as the horses make their way deep in the woods to the beautiful Elk Antler Log Cabin. A blazing fire in a massive split stone fireplace welcomes you. This elegant cabin maintains its rustic appearance while providing every amenity. Warm yourself by the fire and savor the delicious aromas put forth by the twin antique wood cook stoves as the staff prepares your gourmet meal. Throughout your dinner, sample wines from nearby wineries as attentive servers see to your every need. (B,D)

Day 5: Sunday, September 13, 2026

Breakfast is included in the Clubhouse Grill before we depart for Mackinaw City. Upon our arrival Mike Fornes joins us for a fascinating ride across the Mighty Mac. Hear the dramatic tales of the brave iron workers who built this massive suspension bridge. We board the ferry to Mackinac Island. As you step upon the island you will feel like you have stepped back in time. Horse drawn carriages (taxis) will provide transportation to the Grand Hotel for their Grand Hotel Luncheon Buffet. Following lunch take some time to sit on the porch at 660 feet it is the world's largest and has one of the most spectacular views of the straits. We now board a carriage for a tour of the island. Your tour concludes at the Bicycle Street Inn your overnight accommodations. The evening is free to explore this unique island. (B,L)



Day 6: Monday, September 14, 2026

Breakfast is on your own this morning in one of the many restaurants near the hotel. The morning is free to continue exploring the island. Lunch will be on your own before we board the ferry to the mainland. A unique attraction awaits us in Clare, MI. There is a doughnut shop and bakery that has been in constant operation since 1896. This foundation business was within weeks of closing when the members of the Clare Police Department came to the rescue. All of them. It is now dubbed "Cops and Doughnuts". A treat is included. Sit back and relax as we make our way to our last overnight stay in Grand Rapids, MI. (Managers Reception)

Day 7: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Breakfast is included at the hotel. We depart for the Shrine of Christ's Passion. Located in St. John, Indiana, the Shrine of the Christ's Passion is a multi-media interactive, half-mile winding trail of 40 life-size bronze sculptures. Created by Texas artist Mickey Wells, and weighing 300 to 700 pounds, they vividly tell the story of the last days of Christ. These life-size bronze sculptures are in a tranquil setting, complete with beautiful music and amazingly sculptured gardens. They allow visitors to experience the story of the crucifixion and resurrection as never before. Lunch is included at the Shrine of Christ's Passion. (B,L)

Tour Package Includes:

6 Nights' Accommodations (2 Nights Grand Rapids/2 Nights Traverse City/1 Night Hillman/1 night Mackinac Island)

10 Meals (5 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 2 Dinners)

Saugatuck Dune Rides

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Sleeping Bear Dunes

International Fireworks Championship

Ferry to/from Mackinac Island

Carriage Tour of Mackinac Island

Botanic Gardens at Historic Barns Park

Tour and Ice Cream at Farmer's Creamery

Shrine of Christ's Passion

Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation

Luggage Handling For One Suitcase Not To Exceed 50# (as available)

Taxes and Gratuities on Included Accommodations, Attractions and Meals

Not Included:

- Travel Protection Plan
- Or Any Items of a Personal Nature
- **Gratuities to Tri-State Travel Motorcoach Driver and Tour Director**

Your Tour Price:

\$2,699.00 per person – 4 to a room

\$2,799.00 per person – 3 to a room

\$2,899.00 per person – 2 to a room

\$3,499.00 per person – single

For Additional Information or to Make a Reservation Contact:

Tri-State Travel

1-800-779-4869

*Tour Activity Level: 2

Walking one or two city blocks, possibly climbing a flight of stairs, some standing during tours and handling their own carry-on bag.

*4 Level Categories

Travel Protection Plan is available and strongly recommended. Premium is non-refundable unless the entire tour is cancelled. Any surcharges and/or tax increases received from suppliers for this package (Airlines, Cruise Companies, Hotels, etc.) may result in an increase in the per person price of your tour package. For those individuals who have purchased the Travel Protection Plan, this may also result in an increase in your Travel Protection Plan premium.

*Tri-State Travel reserves the right to change any arrangements listed in this itinerary. Should conditions necessitate changes, substitution of equal value or cancellations of the arrangements may occur.

*Tri-State Travel reserves the right to add any fuel surcharges that we receive from all of our vendors i.e.: airlines, cruise lines, motorcoach companies, etc. Additional costs may be added any time prior to travel.

Responsibility Clause:

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TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN is not included but is available and strongly recommended. Premium is non-refundable unless the entire tour is cancelled. We offer a travel protection plan through Trip-Mate Travel Insurance/a division of United States Fire Insurance Company Eatontown, NJ. Any surcharges and/or tax increases received from suppliers for this package (Airlines, Cruise Companies, Hotels, etc) may result in an increase in the per person price of your tour package. For those individuals who may have purchased the Travel Protection Plan this may also result in an increase in your Travel Protection Plan premium. Please refer to www.tripmate.com/Plan_TPD013 for information regarding detailed coverages and limitations to the insurance policy. Waiver of Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion. The exclusion for pre-existing conditional will be waived provided your payment for this plan is received with your reservation and you are not disabled from travel at the time your plan premium is paid.