

Lake Superior Fall Foliage Circle Tour September 25-October 5, 2016 Summary

Tour Highlights: Duluth's Glensheen Mansion & Harbor Cruise • Split Rock Lighthouse • Gondola To Top of Moose Mountain • Terry Fox Memorial • Voyager Canoe on Lake Superior • Soo Locks • Mackinac Island Carriage Tour & Lunch at Grand Hotel • Whitefish Point Shipwreck Museum • Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Cruise • Shrine of Bishop Baraga • Apostle Islands Cruise • 28 Meals!

This is the second year of our unique, one-of-a-kind custom Fall Foliage Tour, offered by *Lake Superior Magazine* & SJO-PRO Tours. We will circumnavigate the greatest of the Great Lakes ... Lake Superior, with one detour to Mackinac Island.

Imagine this: Lake Superior is 31,700 square miles, stretches 350 miles from west to east and 160 miles north to south • during the winter, as much as 95% of the lake is ice covered • summertime water temperature is 39 degrees • there are 2,726 miles of shoreline, mostly forested. It is truly like an ocean with November storms generating 30-foot waves. It holds 10 percent of the world's surface fresh water stored in the cleanest and clearest of the Great Lakes. It is amazing and we are about to discover just how amazing on this Fall Foliage Tour.

Tour will begin in Duluth, Minnesota, the farthest inland ocean-going port in the world. Enjoy watching the activities of Canal Park with balcony rooms overlooking Lake Superior. From Duluth, we'll begin our 1,300-mile trek around the lake by heading up Minnesota's scenic North Shore to perhaps the most historic lighthouse on Lake Superior, Split Rock. Ride the gondola to the top of Moose Mountain for lunch and venture on to Thunder Bay, Ontario, for the night. Passports are required on this tour.

Continue northeast through Nipigon, the northernmost point on the Lake, Rossport and Marathon before the road takes us inland heading south to Wawa, Ontario, for the night. This is a rustic, rural area and our home for the night is a motel with lounge and restaurant attached. This evening, visit David Wells at Lake Superior Adventures for a homemade dinner with wine and, weather permitting, voyager canoe excursions out onto Lake Superior.

Another scenic morning of travel as we follow the shores of the Lake through Pancake Bay and Batchawana Bay. By the way, room does not allow detailed explanations, but during our travels many stops will be made at waterfalls, gift shops and other attractions. We'll come to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and clear Customs back into the United States with a lunch stop at the historic Ojibway Hotel overlooking the Soo Locks. After lunch and exploring, we'll continue on south across the famous Mackinac Bridge to Mackinaw City to catch our ferry over to Mackinac Island for a two-night stay at the historic Mission Point Resort. Tour the island by horse-drawn carriage, lunch at the Grand Hotel and time on your own for shopping.

Ferry back to the mainland, travel northwest towards Lake Superior with a tour of the famous Whitefish Point Lighthouse and Museum. Afternoon cruise of the incredibly scenic Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and evening in Marquette, Michigan. This morning, the highway will be inland as we drive through the Baraga Indian Reservation on Keweenaw Bay and stop at the inspiring Shrine of Bishop Baraga. Next drive to Copper Harbor at the northern tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula, lunch at the Keweenaw Mt. Lodge followed by a tour of the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse and overnight in Hancock, Michigan. Then, next day on to Ontonagon, Michigan, picking up our guide for a tour of the Ontonagon Lighthouse, continue up to the Porcupine Mountains, view of Lake of the Clouds, Bond Falls and on to Ashland, Wisconsin, for a guided tour of the murals. Two night stay at the historic Hotel Chequamegon.

This morning, tour Ashland and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and then motorcoach to Bayfield for lunch and our boat tour of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Back in Bayfield, enjoy touring an apple orchard and winery. At 5:30 p.m., Farewell Dinner at the historic Old Rittenhouse Inn overlooking Lake Superior.

Our final day, we'll complete the Lake Superior Circle Tour by traveling through the lakeshore communities of Bayfield, Cornucopia, Port Wing and Superior prior to crossing the bridge back into Duluth. At our final luncheon, you will be presented with your "Certificate of Completion," having traveled 1,300 miles around the greatest of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior. If Mother Nature cooperates, the Fall Foliage should be spectacular. Hope you are able to join us on this exciting adventure!

Price Per Person: \$2788 per person (Double) • \$2617 per person (Triple) • \$3552 (Single)

\$250 per person deposit at time of reservation (100% refundable up until August 15, 2016). Final payment will be due by August 15, 2016. No refunds after August 15, 2016, unless space is resold.

Trip cancellation and travel protection per person is available at \$193 double/triple & \$247 single.

Your Tour Price Includes:

Deluxe Motorcoaching • All Lodging and Admission to All Events Listed • **28 Meals** – 10 Breakfasts, 10 Lunches and 9 Dinners
All Taxes and Gratuities on scheduled meals, attractions and guides • Baggage Handling

Not included are Air Fares, items of a personal nature and customary "end of trip" gratuity for our Tour Driver & Director.

For reservations, please call *Lake Superior Magazine* at 888-BIG LAKE (888-244-5253). Mail checks payable to SJO-PRO Tours, P.O. Box 16417, Duluth, MN 55816, or call in Visa or MasterCard to the toll-free number.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 – September 25 (Dinner on own at one of many restaurants in the Canal Park area near our hotel)

For those flying into Minneapolis or Duluth, airport transfers will be arranged. Transfer from MSP Airport departs at 1 p.m. All travelers will be met and greeted at the Inn on Lake Superior. **Overnight:** Inn on Lake Superior, 350 Canal Park Dr., Duluth, MN 55802 218-726-1111 (2 nights)

Day 2 – September 26 (Breakfast, Lunch, Reception & Dinner)

Today will be touring of the Duluth area including the 1908 Glensheen, a 39-room Jacobean Revival mansion, Duluth Harbor Cruise and a private home reception. Duluth is the farthest inland seaport in the United States.

Day 3 – September 27 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

This morning we begin our trek around the greatest of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior. We'll travel the North Shore through fishing communities to Split Rock Lighthouse, built in 1910 to provide a beacon after numerous shipwrecks during the large gales that Lake Superior produces. Photo opportunity at Gooseberry Falls prior to the gondola ride to the top of Moose Mountain for lunch. The views of Lake Superior are magnificent. Travel through Grand Marais and on to Grand Portage, where we will go through Customs as we enter Canada. Thunder Bay, the Land of the Sleeping Giant, will be our home tonight. **Overnight:** Prince Arthur Hotel, 17 North Cumberland, Thunder Bay, Ontario 807-345-5411

Day 4 – September 28 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Our first stop will be the inspiring Terry Fox Memorial. Terry, battling cancer and having already lost his right leg, embarked on a Marathon of Hope starting in Newfoundland with hopes of spreading awareness to the far western shores of Canada. It was just outside of Thunder Bay where Terry's journey ended as cancer spread to his lungs. We'll continue on with views of Lake Superior at times and then the inland forests during what we hope will be great Fall Foliage. Stops will be made during the day in fishing communities, an amethyst shop, the home of Winnie the Pooh and finally, Wawa, Ontario, "Land of the Great Goose," for the night. This evening, venture to the shores and home of Lake Superior Adventures for dinner, Voyager canoe paddling on Lake Superior and a slide presentation of the lake and area by David Wells. **Overnight:** Wawa Motor Inn, 118 Mission Road, Wawa, Ontario 705-856-2278

Day 5 – September 29 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

This morning, continue south along the shores of the Great Lake to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where we'll bid farewell to Canada, clear Customs and cross into Michigan for lunch at the beautiful Ojibway Hotel, overlooking the Soo Locks. Time to explore the area and watch mammoth ships as they are lifted from Lake Huron, 21 feet to Lake Superior. 10,000 ships per season pass through these man-made wonders. This afternoon, we'll vary a bit off our Circle Tour, cross the "Mighty Mac" bridge and continue south to Mackinaw City, board the ferry and cross over to Mackinac Island for our two-night stay. **Overnight:** Mission Point Resort, 6333 Main Street, Mackinac Island, MI 49757 906-847-3312 (2 nights)

Day 6 – September 30 (Breakfast & Lunch)

This is our day to enjoy the serenity of Mackinac Island. Morning will be a carriage tour of the Island where motorized vehicles are banned and horses and bicycles are the favored mode of transportation. Enjoy the fabulous Luncheon Buffet at the 1887 Grand Hotel. The rest of the day will be free for exploring and shopping among the many specialty stores, fudge shops, ice cream parlors and so much more.

Day 7 – October 1 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Morning ferry back to the mainland, head north to Lake Superior with our first stop being at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in Whitefish Bay, Michigan, the only museum on the Great Lakes dedicated to shipwrecks. Lunch will be in Munising, Michigan, and then board our boat cruising out into the crystal clear blue-green waters of Lake Superior to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, where masterpieces of colors and rare rock formations have been naturally created. Continuing west, Marquette will be our home for the night. **Overnight:** Landmark Inn, 230 North Front Street, Marquette, MI 49855 906-315-8143

Day 8 – October 2 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Not long after we depart Marquette, we'll make a stop at "Da Yoopers Tourist Trap." See the world's largest chainsaw and largest working rifle. Then visit the Shrine of Bishop Baraga, "The Snowshoe Priest," and learn of his fascinating ministry in the 1840s. Traveling north up the scenic Keweenaw Peninsula, we'll stop for lunch at the historic Keweenaw Mountain Lodge followed by a loop through Copper Harbor and then visit the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse. Late afternoon, arrive for the night in Hancock, Michigan, on the Keweenaw Peninsula. **Overnight:** Ramada Inn Waterfront, 99 Navy Street, Hancock, MI 49930 877-482-8400

Day 9 – October 3 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Short drive this morning to the Ontonagon Lighthouse for a visit followed by lunch and a guided tour to the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park and a short hike to view Lake of the Clouds surrounded by thick virgin forests. Also, a stop will be made at picturesque Bond Falls. Mid-afternoon arrival in Ashland, Wisconsin, for a guided tour of their famous murals and then a two-night stay on Lake Superior's south shore. **Overnight:** Hotel Chequamegon, 101 Lake Shore Drive West, Ashland, WI 54806 715-682-9095 (2 nights)

Day 10 – October 4 (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Start our day with a visit to the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center learning about this area's history complete with a gift shop, art gallery, theater, boardwalk interpretive trail and a five-story observation tower offering panoramic views of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands. Then head north along the shores of Lake Superior to Bayfield, Wisconsin, world famous for its apple orchards. After lunch, enjoy the Apostle Islands Boat Tour followed by visits to an apple orchard and winery. An incredible Farewell Dinner awaits us at the historic Old Rittenhouse Inn. After dinner, motorcoach the short distance back to Ashland.

Day 11 – October 5 (Breakfast & Lunch)

Complete our last 100 miles of our Circle Tour traveling through Cornucopia, Port Wing and Superior, Wisconsin, before crossing the Blatnik Bridge back into Duluth. Landlubber though you may be, you have achieved the dignity, privileges and bragging rights of completing the "Lake Superior Circle Tour." Special gifts and presentation await us as we enjoy our final luncheon together. Tour ends at the Inn on Lake Superior or the Duluth Airport or transfers to MSP. Schedule flights after 2 p.m. out of Duluth and 6 p.m. out of MSP.



Qualifications

Deposit & Insurance: Only a deposit will hold your reservation. Your deposit is due within five days of making your reservation. If you are concerned with a pre-existing condition, Insurance should be purchased with your deposit. Otherwise, Insurance must be purchased on or before Final Payment is made. The complete coverage brochure will be sent with receipt of your deposit or upon request. Insurance premiums are not refundable.

Methods of Payment: Payments may be made by personal check, Visa or MasterCard.

Baggage: Included in the cost of your tour is baggage handling for one large suitcase per person. There is no charge for carry-on luggage that will fit in the overhead storage or beneath your coach seat.

Documentation: Travel into and departing Canada requires a valid Passport. U.S. Passports must be valid for at least six months after the return date of the tour. Guests without proper documentation will not be entitled to a refund if denied entry into Canada.

Tour Participants: *Lake Superior Magazine & SJO-PRO Tours* reserve the right to exclude from the tour of any person if any physical or mental handicap becomes apparent and causes a hardship for the Tour Director and/or other travelers.

Weather: Lake Superior can be very calm at times but is definitely subject to some erratic conditions. The Duluth Harbor Cruise along with the Pictured Rocks and Apostle Islands cruises are at the discretion of the companies conducting these boat trips. If it is determined to be unsafe and any cruise is cancelled, we will do our best to substitute an alternative activity.

Pre & Post nights at the Inn on Lake Superior: If you decide to begin your vacation early or, enjoy additional time in Duluth at the end of our tour, please let us know and we will provide a quote for the additional nights. Transfers to airports would then be your responsibility. Inn on Lake Superior offers free shuttle service to the Duluth Airport.

Responsibilities:

Lake Superior Magazine & SJO-PRO Tours have designed this tour for your pleasure and have attempted to select the finest in transportation and comfortable accommodations in the areas we visit.

Lake Superior Magazine & SJO-PRO Tours have acted as your agents in procuring these reservations and shall not be liable for personal injury, property damage or loss, accidents, delays, illness or inconvenience caused by any supplier or carrier involved in your itinerary.

Lake Superior Magazine & SJO-PRO Tours will attempt to solve any problems encountered if brought to our attention. Your participation on this tour constitutes acknowledgment of these terms.

Bill Sjoblom was born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota. His grandfather & father were both "Herring Chokers" (commercial fishermen) located on the northern shores of Lake Superior in the community of Larsmont. 1969-1972, he served in the US Air Force, first in Korea and then later stationed in Austin, Texas. Bill started business as SJO-PRO Tours in 1987 and now spends six months in Duluth and the remainder of the year on the road planning new travel adventures. He has specialized in Group Travel for the more mature travelers and his true passion has been planning and conducting tours around the Great Lakes and especially, Lake Superior.