**Babler Bus Service, Inc.**

**S1666 State Hwy 42**

**Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**

**920-856-6675 or 1-800-763-0146**

**Lake Michigan Tour**

**July 14 – 19, 2024**

**Departures: 6:00 am Maplewood (Babler Bus)**

**6:20 am Dykesville (Park & Ride Hwy 57 & Cty. P)**

**6:45 am Green Bay 172 & GV Park and Ride on Hoffman Rd.**

**No Manitowoc Pickup**

**Day 1, Sunday, July 14th**

Juice, Water & Muffins

Morning Break

Lunch on your own Portage IN (Time Change to Eastern Time)

Stop at Windmill Island Gardens, Holland MI

All Self Guided & Restrooms (Included)

Many visitors to Holland are looking for signs of our Dutch heritage and find examples all throughout town. However, THE place to go to get a taste of our area's Dutch history and culture is Windmill Island Gardens!

Fortunately, a group of City Fathers in the 1950’s and 60’s recognized the importance of keeping our heritage alive as well as providing a place where community members and visitors could gather. They were able to procure the last working windmill allowed to leave the Netherlands in 1964. The historic windmill ‘de Zwaan’ is the highlight of the park and stands amongst 36 acres of exhibits, gardens and natural areas. The mill still turns and grinds grain into flour and a tour up 5 floors is the highlight of any visit to the park.

Arrive at the Drury Inn & Suites, Grand Rapids

Drury Kickback or Dinner on your own near the hotel

**Day 2, Monday, July 15th**

Breakfast at the hotel

**Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park** is a 158-acre [botanical garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botanical_garden), art museum, and outdoor [sculpture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sculpture) park located in [Grand Rapids Township](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Rapids_Township,_Michigan), [Michigan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_Michigan). Opened in 1995, Meijer Gardens quickly established itself in the [Midwest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midwest) as a major cultural attraction jointly focused on horticulture and sculpture. Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park includes a tropical conservatory, an 8-acre Japanese garden, major works of modern and contemporary sculpture on the grounds and indoors, along with a series of outdoor gardens and nature trails. It is a well attended cultural site in Michigan, having attracted 750,000 visitors annually between 2015 - 2017. Meijer Gardens has continued to grow its permanent collection of sculpture from major figures in [Modern](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modern_art) and [Contemporary art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_art)[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederik_Meijer_Gardens_&_Sculpture_Park#cite_note-:7-6) while building additional structures for indoor and outdoor gardens. In 2018, the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park was included as one of "Eleven of the World's Greatest Sculpture Parks" by [*Artsy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artsy_(website)).

Lunch in route at Culvers in Cedar Springs MI (on your own)

**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**, Phillip a Hart Visitors Center

Are there mountains in northern Michigan? You bet! We lightheartedly refer to them as “mountains of sand” otherwise known as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This is one of the top things to do in the Traverse City area.  The lakeshore is also known as the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park and it's been part of the park system since 1970. It is one of America’s most profoundly beautiful landscapes with sweeping vistas, freshwater beaches, forested wilderness islands, and miles of hiking trails. There is also the paved [**Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail**](https://www.traversecity.com/listings/sleeping-bear-heritage-trail-sleeping-bear-dunes/1143/), a multi-use pathway that runs from the northern end of the park to a point just south of Empire.

Dinner included in Traverse City MI/ Boone’s Long Lake Inn. (Included) After Dinner Arrive at our Hotel in Traverse City MI for the evening is the Great Wolf Lodge/Traverse City

**Day 3, Tuesday, July 16th**

Breakfast on your own at the hotel or at Friske Farm Market

Friske Farm Market (There will be a step on for a short talk)

Drive past Mushroom Houses, Charlevoix Designed and built by Charlevoix native and legend Earl Young. The Mushroom Houses are over 26 of the most fascinating stone structures ever built. An avid nature lover, Young constructed each house from the stones and boulders that line the miles of shoreline in Northern Michigan.

Drop downtown for Lunch on your own in Charlevoix

Sault Saint Marie MI

Locks Observation Deck and Dinner on your own.

Hotel is the Best Western Sault Saint Marie, MI

**Day 4, Wednesday, July 17th**

Breakfast at the Hotel

Soo Locks Boat Tour The **Soo Locks** (sometimes spelled **Sault Locks** but pronounced "soo") are a set of parallel [locks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock_(water_navigation)), operated and maintained by the [United States Army Corps of Engineers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Corps_of_Engineers), Detroit District, that enable [ships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ship) to travel between [Lake Superior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Superior) and the lower [Great Lakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Lakes). They are located on the [St. Marys River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Marys_River_(Michigan%E2%80%93Ontario)) between Lake Superior and [Lake Huron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Huron), between the [Upper Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Peninsula_of_Michigan) of the [U.S. state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) of [Michigan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan) and the [Canadian province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_and_territories_of_Canada) of [Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario). They bypass the rapids of the river, where the water falls 21 ft (6.4 m). The locks pass an average of 10,000 ships per year,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soo_Locks#cite_note-4) despite being closed during the winter from January through March, when ice shuts down shipping on the Great Lakes. The winter closure period is used to inspect and maintain the locks

Lunch included at Antlers

**Travel to Saint Ignace to catch** Shepler’s Ferry – Departs at 3:00 pm

2 nights stay on Mackinac Island at Lake View Hotel (directly across from the Ferry, guests walk over and check in)-your luggage will be taken over to the hotel and it will be brought to your room.

Dinner on your own this evening

**Day 5, Thursday, July 18th**

Breakfast on your own (you will have to check out places the night before) or get something from the grocery store for a small breakfast. Save room for the big lunch

Carriage for a tour of the Island

Group lunch included at the Grand Hotel Tea Room (Included)

Take Carriage back or walk from the Grand Hotel back to downtown area

Free afternoon and evening

**Day 5, Friday, July 19th**

Breakfast on your own

Luggage needs to be set outside your door and the Porters will pick it up. They will organize onto the luggage carts for the ferry and take it to the dock for departure.

Checkout and take the Ferry to Saint Ignace

Pick up your bag and load the coach

Travel Back to Green Bay, with a few stops along the way.