



**~TWO NIGHT THREE DAY ITINERARY~  
Lighthouse Festival 2018 – Paradise, Michigan**

**Day One – Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**    **Departure from West Branch – 8:00 AM**  
**Departure from Gaylord – 9:15 AM**

Today we start our Lighthouse Festival adventure from West Branch, MI and head to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Once on board our luxury motor coach, you will receive a copy of the Michigan Lighthouse Guide and your 2018 souvenir Lighthouse Festival T-Shirt. Wear it proudly in support of saving our lights.

As we make our way toward the Mighty Mac Bridge, and the undiscovered and pristine views of upper Michigan we will watch the DVD on "The making of the Mackinac Bridge". Learn the history of the bridge and the story of the people that made the access to what is known to many as "God's Country" possible.

Have your lighthouse passport handy, as we arrive at the Old Mackinac Lighthouse located on the northern tip of Mackinaw City, which has been a guiding beacon since 1889. Serving primarily for the ferries crossing the straits from St. Ignace to Mackinaw City, this navigational aid was no longer needed in the vicinity after the Mackinac Bridge was opened in 1957. The navigators began using this as their reference point. Here you will want to see and tour the restored keeper's quarters, the gallery and take in the new for 2018 exhibit devoted to optics and lenses as well as sound and fog signals. Our guided tour will also include a trip to the top of the tower and great photo opportunities of the Straits of Mackinac.

We then take some time for lunch on your own in downtown Mackinaw City with additional time to browse the shops or pick up some of their famous fudge! Centrally located, you will also want to take a moment to take in the FREE Mackinaw Bridge Museum. Located above Mama Mia's Pizza, the museum was created by the owner who was one of the Ironworkers who built the bridge. The now extensive collection began with the purchase of the original spinning wheel that pulled the wire across the towers to complete the 24" main cables.

Continuing north we cross the Mighty Mac as we and head to the north woods and our waterfront hotel, Bay Mills Resort & Casino where we will spend the next two nights. Nestled on the shores of Lake Superior you will want to take the time to experience all that the resort has to offer.

After freshening up and taking a minute to relax, your evening begins with a sincere welcome as we are greeted by our period costumed lighthouse keeper to the 2018 Lighthouse Festival! We then enjoy a complete buffet dinner prior to sitting back to be entertained during the concert, as the legend lives on, with "The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute"!

Afterwards, take advantage of your casino package and try a little lady luck on your favorite slot machine or gaming table located throughout the resort.



### **Day Two – Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

After breakfast at the resort (\$10 dining voucher included) you will feel the lure of lighthouses set in taking us to our first stop this morning as we visit the **Point Iroquois Lighthouse**. The 4th Order Fresnel lens shone over one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world: the entrance to the St. Mary's River and the Soo Locks, which was first illuminated in 1857. The light was then extinguished in 1962 after performing its duties for over 100 years. Take to the 65 foot tower to observe not only the lake and beauty of Canada, hoping to get a glimpse of the ocean-going freighters passing by. Informative displays and costumed historic interpreters are on hand to tell the history of the lighthouse. The sandy shoreline and beach-side boardwalk also calls for a close up view of the water and photo opportunities.

Next we arrive in Paradise, MI with a stop at the community center, home to the **Lighthouse Marketplace**. While here you will be treated to a traditional **Pasty meal for lunch** and have time in the marketplace which is a representation of Michigan Lighthouses as well as arts and crafts vendors.

Driving the shoreline we continue north to the oldest active **lighthouse** on Lake Superior and the **Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum** at Whitefish Point. This national historic site is a tribute to the sailors and ships lost along the coastline, known as Lake Superior's Shipwreck Coast. Lighthouse enthusiasts know that the **Whitefish Point Lighthouse** offers a spectacular view from the top of the tower, while the museum and theatre delivers the sense and distinct importance of these Shoreline beacons. The beautiful grounds and a stroll on the beautiful beach make for a leisurely afternoon overlooking the "shipwreck coast."

Mid afternoon it's time to head west to the land of the golden water named **Tahquamenon Falls**. Entering the state park nature enthusiasts will enjoy the solitude as we walk with our park guide through the old growth forest to see one of the largest waterfalls east of the Mississippi River, the **Upper Tahquamenon Falls**. With a drop of nearly 50 feet and more than 200 feet across, record gallons per second have been recorded at 50,000 gallons. Hidden in the forest, the picturesque view definitely requires a camera! The falls' fame was also noted in the 1855 epic poem "Song of Hiawatha" by Longfellow.

After our guided tour you will have time for dinner on your own at one of the outdoor food vendors or take in a special treat at the **Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Pub**. Some may indulge in the refreshing taste of a handcrafted beer or simply enjoy their root beer! Originally a logging camp, the restaurant and gift shop, is a replica of the original, Camp 33.

Returning to the Paradise Community Center we join others next to Lake Superior's Whitefish Bay to listen to the **Mighty Hiawatha Band**, which will be performing a broad range of genres. (\*concessions will be available on site with popcorn, hotdogs, soda pop, water and candy)



After a full day of activities, we return to Bay Mills Resort for the evening.

**Day Three – Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

After breakfast at the resort (\$10 dining voucher included) we leave the Upper Peninsula as we here the next beacon calling. Today will travel the scenic shoreline of Lake Huron heading south to visit an additional three lighthouses.

With so much more to see and do, our first stop is at the **Forty Mile Point Lighthouse** which is located on the northern shoreline of Lake Huron in Presque Isle County’s Lighthouse Park near Roger’s City. At a cost of \$25,000, the station was complete by the end of 1896. Its 4<sup>th</sup> Order Fresnel lens has been a welcoming beacon to sailors since May 1897 and is still operating today. We will also visit the pilot house from the Steamer Calcite, built in 1912 and the first self-unloading steamer on the lakes.

This afternoon we visit one of the oldest surviving lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Built in 1840, **Old Presque Isle Lighthouse** and then to the **New Presque Isle Lighthouse built in 1871**. During our visit to enjoy the lighthouses and the sight of freighters’ going by we will have some quite picnic time to enjoy a **box lunch**.

**Return to Gaylord pick-up location at approximately 3:15 PM**

**Return to West Branch pick-up location at approximately 4:30 PM**

**INCLUDING:**

- 5 Meals (2 L, 1 D & \$20 toward 2 B)
- 2 Nights Hotel Accommodations
- Professional Tour Director or Local Host
- All Sightseeing and Admission Fees
- Motor coach Transportation to and from West Branch, MI

**NET PRICE: \$485.00 ~ Single**

**\$365.00 ~ Double**

**\$365.00 ~ Triple**

**\$365.00 ~ Quad**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Welcome Gifts – Michigan Lighthouse Guide & Souvenir Lighthouse Festival T-Shirt
- Old Mackinac Lighthouse
- Welcome Reception Bay Mills Resort (cash bar) Buffet Dinner
- The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Concert
- Point Iroquois Lighthouse
- Lighthouse Marketplace with Pasty lunch
- Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum
- Whitefish Point Lighthouse
- Upper Tahquamenton Falls



- Live Music with the Mighty Hiawatha Band
- Forty Mile Point Lighthouse
- Old & New Presque Isle Lighthouse

**Deposit Due - 50% at Time of Booking**

**Cash – Money Order – Personal Checks**

**Balance Due – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**

**For more information and to make reservations contact**

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