

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS



Tour A: Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens

Tuesday, May 3

8:00 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.

\$70.00 per person

Our tour to East Lansing, Michigan, will focus on MSU's Arboretum and gardens. These are listed in the top 50 Most Amazing University Botanical Gardens and Arboretums in the U.S. The 14 acres of diverse gardens begs your exploration. Our first stop is at the Arboretum, which has been called a "learning experience in the making" because it lets students, refine their skills and visitors to take home gardening ideas. Dr. Art Cameron and Dr. Vance Baird will lead an educational discussion during the visit before you enjoy lunch in the Conservatory. After lunch you will have time to explore the gardens individually. This is a great photo-op so bring your camera. One must-see stop before heading back to Grand Rapids is the Broad Art Museum, a contemporary museum devoted to the exploration and exhibition of significant art around the world.



Tour B: Park Congregational Church & Meyer May House

Tuesday, May 3

8:45 a.m. To 3:15 p.m.

\$70.00 per person

Explore historic downtown Grand Rapids and experience the Park Congregational Church. The church was founded in 1868 and became known as "Park Church" for its proximity to Veterans Park across the street. The famous Tiffany stained glass windows were installed between 1904 and 1938. A fire in 1988 damaged some original woodwork and the church organ, but the windows were unharmed. You must see the beautiful restoration work and the new 104-rank pipe organ. After viewing the church, your guide will narrate the Heritage Hill district that encompasses more than 1,300 homes dating back to 1843. Styles range from Greek Revival to Prairie, and a Frank Lloyd Wright design. The Meyer May House, called "Michigan's Prairie Masterpiece" and has been fully restored by the international office furniture company, Steelcase. Following your tour, enjoy lunch at Women's City Club and eat in the Desdemona's Dining room named after the first lady of the house.



Tour B-1: From Garden to Table

Tuesday, May 3

10:30 a.m. To 11:15 a.m.

\$55.00 per person

Chef Josef M. Huber, our executive chef of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, presents a world-class culinary demonstration topped off with taste-tempting samples of garden produce fit for the "queen's" table. Chef Josef M. Huber, oversees a team of more than 100 professional culinary operations for three luxury hotels. He is internationally known for combining multi-ethnic cuisine with traditional cooking to bring forth a tour-de-force for the palate. Huber won the Chef of the Year Award from Michigan Hotel and Tourism Association, and has orchestrated the development of a culinary brigade that eventually earned the first-ever AAA Five-Diamond restaurant rating in Michigan in 2013. His recipes have been featured in a wide range of publications around the world. (Minimum attendance required)



Tour C: Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Wednesday, May 4

9:30 a.m. To 4:00 p.m.

\$70.00 per person

Discover the beauty of the nationally-known botanical gardens and sculpture park right within the city of Grand Rapids. With more than 600,000 visitors annually, it's named the most significant sculpture experiences in the Midwest and an emerging worldwide cultural destination. This park is home to Leonardo Da Vinci's 24 foot Horse and 200 other famous sculptures. Frederick Meijer Gardens has over 30 acres of beauty, which you will get to see via a narrated tram tour. Don't miss out on exploring the newly opened Japanese Gardens where tranquility meets beauty and simplicity! A lunch voucher will be included to dine at the Taste of the Gardens Café where local products are emphasized, and a seasonal inspired menu is featured daily.



Tour C-1: Amway World Headquarters

Thursday May 5

8:30 a.m. To 11:00 a.m.

\$35.00 per person

This is a great opportunity to tour one of the most successful companies in the world. You will have an opportunity to participate with more than 24 interactive exhibits and 160 videos telling the Amway story in an informative and exciting way. On this tour you'll Experience Leadership, Experience Wellness, Experience History and Experience Amway.



Tour D: Tulip Festival

Saturday, May 7

8:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m.

\$80.00 per person

Every year, people from across the Midwest and around the world look forward to spring in Michigan. It is the ideal time to participate in the Tulip Time Festival in Holland, Michigan. This small town holds the largest tulip festival in the world! More than 4.5 million tulip bulbs are planted in city parks, public attractions, and along city streets. A local guide who may be dressed a Dutch Boys and Girls will share information about the festival that began in 1929 to celebrate Dutch Heritage, A visit to Windmill Island Garden, as well as the Veldheer Tulip Garden, and the Wooden Shoe Factory are must-visit venues while in Holland. Lunch will be hosted by the Holland Garden Club in costume. Be sure to catch a photo selfie of yourself and your local Klomper. It is exciting to note that Holland, Michigan has been named the winner of the 2016 American In Bloom Champions Category for Mid-size Cities.



Tour E: Northern Michigan

\$425.00 (per person) double occupancy

Saturday & Sunday, May 7 Leave 7:00 a.m. Return May 8 Arrive 4:00 p.m.

In a thumbnail, this fantastic tour includes the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Shoreline, Traverse City and Mackinac Island. Stepping back in time, you will experience “The Most Beautiful Place in America” as “Good Morning America” described Sleeping Bear Dunes on the shoreline of the largest of the Great Lakes. Our interpreter from the National Park Service will explain the natural lakeshore features of forest, dunes, and pristine beaches. The tour continues with a stop in Traverse City, “The Cherry Capitol of the World.” Besides being recognized as the largest producer of tart cherries in the U.S. Traverse City holds bragging rights for its freshwater beaches, vineyards, downtown restaurants and shops where lunch will be available at your own expense. Hugging the Lake Michigan shoreline, we work our way to Mackinaw City and a short ferry ride to the Island where cars are absent - only the melodic sounds of horses’ hooves transporting you and other guests around the island on a carriage tour, the historic fort and downtown known for its famous Mackinaw fudge. The infamous Grand Hotel with 385 guest rooms (no two alike) will be home for the night. Here you will experience superior hospitality including a five-course meal and complete breakfast. Before heading back to the mainland, you will tour the Grand Hotel gardens.

TOURS: Spouses and Guest Tours (space limited)



Tour F: Gilmore Car Museum

Thursday, May 5

8:30 a.m. To 5:00 p.m.

\$65.00 per person

It’s as if you entered a time machine and was transported back for an historical ride in the automobile. The Gilmore Car Museum, located in Hickory Corners, Michigan, is one of Michigan’s largest collections of automotive history. A short motor coach ride from Grand Rapids will take you to this 90 acre historic campus that houses more than 400 vintage automobiles ranging from an 1899 Locomobile to the classic Duesenberg, the elusive Tucker '48 to the Model T, plus you will see a building full of motorcycles. You’ll recall visions of yesteryear when visiting the 1930 replica Shell Service Station that houses a vast collection of memorabilia from the days when gas was only 18 cents a gallon. Lunch will be at George & Sally’s Blue Moon Diner which first opened in 1941 in Connecticut then moved to this location to be meticulously restored in 2004.



Tour G: The New Beverage Industry

Friday, May 6

8:15 a.m. To 4:30 p.m.

\$75.00 per person

Coffee in the morning is the “quick-starter” for millions of people and we have often learned about the growing and harvesting of the prized coffee bean. But the more recent trend is the blending and roasting the selected coffee beans. It is big business as we will learn on this tour starting at Ferris Coffee & Nut where samples will be available. Following will be a tour of Grand Rapids Coffee Roaster where the owner will give a detailed presentation of this growing business in the wholesale warehouse. Another emerging beverage industry is exploding on the economic scene in the state and you will tour a couple of the recent local entries into this burgeoning market. Your luncheon speaker will enlighten you to this new far-reaching industry and discuss its impact nationwide. Samples will be provided.