

Mini European Getaway In Michigan!

APRIL 27-MAY 5, 2026



NO PASSPORT? DON'T LIKE TO FLY? NO PROBLEM!

THIS TOUR OF MICHIGAN HAS ALL THE EUROPEAN FLAIR WITHOUT LEAVING THE UNITED STATES!

Day 1—April 27, 2026

This morning, we'll board the coach and begin our journey northwest to **Detroit, Michigan**. Today will be a travel day. Rest stops and a lunch stop will be made along the way "on your own". We will arrive and check-in at our hotel, where we will spend the next two evenings. Dinner is included this evening. (D)

Day 2—April 28, 2026

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning. We'll start the morning off boarding the coach with our local guide. Hear stories of how the French influenced Detroit as we make our way to the **Edsel Ford House**. Here we will take a guided tour of the property where Edsel and Eleanor Ford filled their home with English and French antiques and an impressive collection of fine and decorative art. You'll unlock the secrets of this storied estate by engaging with our guide, unraveling tales of automotive legacy, architectural marvels, and the Ford family's cultural impact. Delight in private access to stunning gardens, opulent interiors, and panoramic lakefront views. We'll finish off our time here by having lunch with a fantastic view of Lake St. Clair. Next, we'll get back on board the bus with our local guide who will continue her tales of French heritage on our way to the **Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit**, the second oldest continuously operating parish in the United States. Here, she will show you around as the basilica boasts soaring neo-Gothic architecture and the oldest stained-glass windows in the city of Detroit. Afterwards, we'll continue our tour of Detroit as our guide takes us on a historical adventure with viewings of Michigan Central Train Station, Hotel Fort Pontchartrain (the original site of Cadillac's fort), Cadillac's 1701 Founding Convoy plaque, and see the statues of the "Fab Four" French Founders. Tonight dinner will be included at a local French restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 3—April 29, 2026

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before checking out and making our way to **Holland, Michigan**. Travel to **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park** in Grand Rapids, MI to view striking gardens with fine art. Emphasized are horticultural displays showcasing a beautiful array of plants appropriate for the Midwest and specialized plants from regions around the world. Presentations range from planned and manicured to natural and native, changing colors and views with the seasons. Enjoy lunch at the Gardens "on your own" before continuing to Holland. Upon arrival in Holland we will meet a local guide who will give the Dutch history of the city. They'll join us as we head to **Windmill Island Gardens**, home of the last working windmill allowed to leave the Netherlands and an abundance of tulip fields! The windmill 'de Zwaan' stands amongst 36 acres of exhibits & gardens. The mill still turns and grinds grain into flour and a tour up 5 floors is the highlight of any visit to the park. We will say goodbye to our guide as we head to **Bowerman's Blueberry Farm**, where we will enjoy a talk from the farmers, a delicious dinner, and time to browse and shop their wonderful market full of everything blueberry! Check into our hotel this evening for a 2 night stay. (B, D)

Day 4—April 30, 2026

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before enjoying the day in Holland. This morning, step back into the Netherlands of over 100 years ago at **Nelis' Dutch Village**, on a day when a festival came to town. Within this happy village, you can experience many entertainment choices including Dutch dancing, wooden shoe carving, rides, games, friendly farm animals, photo ops, food, drink and shopping. You will have time for lunch on your own here. Next, tour the **Holland Bowl Mill**, a fourth-generation manufacturer of hand-turned wooden bowls and other useful wood products and kitchenware. The Holland Bowl Mill is the best and largest solid wood bowl production facility in the world, making beautiful solid hardwood bowls of the highest quality, the same way they were made over 150 years ago. You'll have time to relax at the hotel, or explore the quaint main street of Holland this afternoon before a local dinner is included this evening. (B, D)

Day 5—May 1, 2026

After having breakfast at the hotel this morning, we'll check out and head north to **Mackinac Island!** Rest stops will be made along the way, including a lunch stop "on your own". The Colonial history is booming as we arrive in Mackinaw City. Here we'll visit Michilimackinac, an 18th-century reconstructed fort and fur trading village. As you walk through **Colonial Michilimackinac**, you are stepping back in time to 1775, as the American Revolution began. Here, you will see and hear how the growing conflict affected this thriving fur trading community. Afterwards, we'll board the ferry to Mackinac Island—a place where the horse is king and the streets have been car-free for over 100 years. We'll check into **The Grand Hotel**, rich in history and offering exceptional accommodations, with each guest room uniquely decorated and meals that are an event! Named the Best Historic Hotel by USA Today, sit in a rocking chair on the world's longest porch and experience the excellence of today. As evening falls, The Grand Hotel transforms into a place of timeless sophistication, where every night is a special occasion. After 6:30 PM, we honor this 139-year tradition by requiring guests to dress with elevated evening attire in all main areas of the hotel. Dinner will be included this evening overlooking the Straits of Mackinac in the Main Dining Room. (B, D)

Day 6—May 2, 2026

Begin your day with an included breakfast in The Grand Hotel's Main Dining Room. Later this morning we will take a **horse drawn carriage ride** on a tour around Mackinac Island to learn about the history of the Island. The tour will end back at The Grand Hotel where we'll enjoy their signature **Grand Luncheon Experience**, a lavish bountiful display of food and beverage and a fusion of tradition and innovation uniting yesterday and tomorrow. Enjoy this afternoon and evening at your leisure either enjoying the grounds of the resort, or take a 10-15 minute stroll into town and explore the many gift shops, grab some fudge, or just grab a bench and enjoy the views! (B, L)

Day 7—May 3, 2026

After breakfast this morning, we'll check out and depart for the ferry back to the mainland. We'll begin our journey to the German influenced **Frankenmuth, Michigan**. We will make a lunch stop "on your own" along the way. Once we arrive, tap into Frankenmuth's cultural roots by becoming a German baker for a day. The **pretzel-rolling experience** at The Bavarian Inn Bakery will offer a hands-on experience to make your own soft pretzel. While our pretzels are in the oven, we'll enjoy a city tour to learn about the city of Frankenmuth. We'll pick up our pretzels and enjoy the deliciousness before checking into our hotel for the night. After a quick freshening up, we'll head to Bavarian Inn Restaurant to have a **German wine tasting** before experiencing the **Glockenspiel Tower**, a magnificent 35-bell carillon with a beautiful figurine movement and an illuminated clock, all imported from Germany. We'll end the night with their **world famous chicken dinner**, including many German meats. (B, D)

Day 8—May 4, 2026

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and starting the day at the world's largest Christmas store, **Bronner's Christmas Wonderland**. You'll have time to look around and shop before grabbing a bite to eat "on your own" here for lunch. From here we'll make our journey to **Sugarcreek, Ohio** which will make you feel like you're in a Swiss Village! We'll visit the **World's Largest Cuckoo Clock** before heading to our hotel for the night. There will be an Amish Market and Shop next to the hotel that you can browse, or relax until it's time for our included dinner tonight at the Dutch Valley Restaurant. (B, D)

Day 9 –May 5, 2026

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before checking out and beginning our journey home. The fun's not over yet, though! We'll make a stop at the **Ernest Warther Museum & Gardens**. Warther was born in 1885 to Swiss parents and became a World's Master Carver. He began carving at age 5, focusing on the evolution of the steam-engine. The current museum is built around the original location of Ernest and his wife's home, his original workshop, and the first museum which opened on May 10th, 1936 in their backyard. Explore the Warther family residence, Swiss-styled gardens, historic "Calico Ditch," 3 acre park, and Frieda Warther's collection of over 73,000 buttons. We will make a stop along the way for an included Italian lunch, and then continue home with memories of your state-side European adventure! (B, L)

Trip Includes

Motorcoach Transportation, Lowee's Tour Escort, 8 Nights Hotel Accommodations, Luggage Handling, 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 7 dinners, Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit, Detroit French History City Tour, Ford House, Frederick Meijer Gardens, Holland City Tour, Bowerman's Blueberry Farm, Holland Bowl Mill, Dutch Village, Holland State Park, Windmill Island Gardens, Mackinac Island Ferry, Grand Hotel (w/ Luncheon & Dinner), Carriage Tour, Frankenmuth City Tour, Pretzel Making Class, German Wine Tasting, Glockenspiel Viewing, Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, World's Largest Cuckoo Clock, Ernest Warther Museum, All Included Meal Gratuities and Taxes.

Hotels

Courtyard by Marriott—2 Nights

5200 Mercury Drive Dearborn, Michigan 48126

Indoor Pool, On-Site Store & Restaurant, Fitness Center, Free WiFi, Mini Fridge, Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer, Iron & Ironing Board

Homewood Suites by Hilton—2 Nights

625 South Point Hotel Drive Holland, Michigan 49423

Indoor Pool, In Room Full Kitchen, Fitness Center, Free WiFi, Hair Dryer, Iron & Ironing Board

Grand Hotel—2 Nights

286 Grand Avenue Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757

Heated Outdoor Pool, Spa, Shopping, Restaurants, Activities, Fitness Center, Free WiFi, Hair Dryer, Iron & Ironing Board

Fairfield Inn & Suites—1 Night

430 S. Main Street Frankenmuth, Michigan 48734

Indoor Pool & Hot Tub, Fitness Center, Free WiFi, Mini Fridge, Microwave, Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer, Iron & Ironing Board

Carlisle Inn—1 Night

1357 Old Rte. 39 NE Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681

Balcony or Porch, On-Site Amish Market & Gift Shops, Mini Fridge, Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer, Iron & Ironing Board

Terms & Conditions

Deposit Requirements

An initial deposit of \$250 per person is required to confirm reservation. Full payment must be received by February 27, 2026.

Travel Insurance must be purchased at the time of booking to cover pre-existing conditions.

Cancellation

Deposit is refundable until February 27, 2026. After that point there are no refunds without travel insurance.

Baggage

Portage of baggage at hotels are included in program; it is based upon a maximum of 1 piece of standard baggage per person.

Items Not Included

Our tours do not include items of a personal nature such as laundry, room service, telephone charges or other hotel extras.

All passengers are responsible for settling any such costs incurred before checking out of each hotel or returning home.

Gratuities

Tips for baggage handling and wait staff for included meals are included, except for at The Grand Hotel (we are unable to prepay gratuities for meals here). Gratuities for the driver, escort, local guides, and housekeeping are also not included.

RESPONSIBILITY OF SERA: The State Employees Recreation Association, its officers, directors, representatives and members, expressly disclaims all responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for loss, damage or injury to property or to the person due to any cause whatsoever, occurring during or attributable to the tour, or tours, described herein and purchaser/participant by his or her subscription to or participation in the travel opportunity, does release SERA from such liability or responsibility. Without limiting the foregoing, SERA is not and shall not become liable or responsible for accidents, loss, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, discontinuances or change in transit or hotel accommodations and/or services and other causes over which they have no control. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser and/or participants of this tour. SERA is not responsible, and the purchaser and/or participant waives all claim against SERA, for all of the aforesaid conditions as well as loss or damage resulting from delays, cancellations, or substitutions of equipment, financial conditions, or any act, omission, negligence, or any other faults by the travel agent, carriers, hotel or any other transportation or service providers or companies, their agents, servants, employees and sub-contractors or other causes. In the event that, in the opinion of SERA, it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort and/or well being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary of this tour, including the airline and type of equipment, accommodations and/or service utilized, SERA reserves the right to do so at its sole discretion and without notice. SERA is a non-profit organization, comprised of volunteers, for the benefit of all Commonwealth employees, active or retired, their relatives and friends. It is solely responsible for its own affairs and completely independent of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State government.

Mini European Getaway—In Michigan!
April 27-May 5, 2026
\$2,599pp Double Occupancy / \$3,499 pp Single Occupancy
Call for triple or quad room pricing

Enclosed please find a deposit in the amount of \$ _____ (\$250pp) to secure reservation for _____ # people

I (We) wish to purchase Travel Insurance Yes _____ No _____

Insurance must be purchased within 2 weeks of deposit for pre-existing conditions to be covered.

Here is the link for travel insurance: www.travelsafe.com/travel-safe/travelers?agent=5307

Total Payments \$ _____

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact / Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Roommate Name: _____ Date of Birth : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone # _____

Passport Number: _____ Passport Expiration Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell # _____

Emergency Contact / Telephone: _____

Special Requests: _____
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Make check out to Lowee's Group Tours, LLC and mail reservations to:  
SERA—Mini European Getaway  
PO Box 458  
Harrisburg PA 17108-0458

If paying by credit card please fill out below and send to the above address.

Payment by Credit Card (circle one)      Visa      MasterCard      Discover

**\*\*There is a 3% fee charged for payments made via credit card payment\*\***

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CID Code \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be Charged : \_\_\_\_\_ Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$250 Deposit due with registration / Final balance due 2-27-26**