

Art Meets Nature

Chihuly at Meijer Gardens, Michigan

Seven Day Tour ~ September 13-19, 2026

Highlights: Nonstop, Roundtrip Airfare Newark to Grand Rapids • Two Relaxing Nights at the Quaint BaySide Inn • Four Waterfront Nights at the Serene Suttons Bay Beach Club & Lodge • Frederik Meijer Sculpture Gardens Chihuly Exhibit • Saugatuck Dunes State Park • Saugatuck Dunes Buggy Ride • Windmill Island Gardens • Quaint Dutch Downtown Holland • Big Red Lighthouse • Fun Donut Boat Ride! • Little Sable Point Lighthouse • Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse • Sleeping Bear Dunes Park • Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive • Sleeping Bear Dune Climb • Grand Traverse Lighthouse • Lovely Leland Village • Leelanau Historical Society Museum • Charlevoix Mushroom Houses • Charming Charlevoix • Harsha House Museum • Homey Harbor Springs • Tunnel of Trees Scenic Drive • Thorne Swift Nature Preserve • Cute Cross Village • Quirky Legs Inn • Old Mission General Store • Mission Point Lighthouse • SkyBridge Michigan & Scenic Chairlift • Petoskey Gaslight District • Wind Dancer Schooner Sunset Sail • All Breakfasts • Four Lunches • Three Dinners • Fully Escorted

A delightful combination of magical glass artistry and the beauty of nature are harmoniously blending together at the renowned Frederik Meijer Sculpture Gardens. It's the perfect time to travel to the refreshing west coast of Michigan to experience Chihuly at Meijer Gardens where garden spaces are transformed into artistic experiments with color, light, transparency, and form. Wander the colorful pathways to discover incredible glass creations that are designed to inspire wonder and spark imagination creating surprising moments around every corner. You certainly don't want to miss the chance to be part of this extraordinary celebration of creativity, color, and light. Michigan's northwest lower peninsula is an area rich in relaxation and stunning natural beauty that's perfect for wandering. As we travel through these remote, nature-filled regions, we'll discover all its sights, flavors, and adventures. From towering sand dunes and timber towered bridges to quaint small towns filled with mushroom shaped houses and old timey general stores, there's never a dull moment to be found. Special treasures only from Michigan will be our guide as we search for the elusive Petoskey stones, climb a windmill, ride a donut, travel through a tree tunnel, and visit lovely lighthouses galore. New Jersey is out and Michigan is in this for this early fall artistic nature adventure!

Day 1. It will be a whimsical colorful day when we arrive at the Frederik Meijer Sculpture Gardens as we immerse in the unique tapestry of glass in perfect balance among the garden spaces. Before we wander, let's enjoy an included lunch right here in the garden café under Chihuly's dazzling glass ceiling sculpture filled with wondrous colors. There's much here to explore so start wandering towards whatever draws your interest. Significant works of art lie within the natural settings of the Sculpture Park connected by waterways, meandering paths, meadows, and quiet walkways and rooftops display sculpture set against stunning views. Tranquility can be found among the spaces of the Japanese Garden and natural wetlands, an inspiring modern twist is hidden in the English Perennial Garden, and a relaxing spot awaits in the Victorian Garden Parlor. Feel the warmth of the lush, verdant Tropical Conservatory filled with waterfalls, streams, bridges, and tropical birds and watch your fingers and toes if you



Colorful Chihuly Art



Gigantic Sand Dunes!

walk into the Carnivorous Plant House. The artistic vibe won't be left behind as we make our way to the Art Coast of Michigan where the quaint town of Saugatuck awaits. Here, we'll check into our new home at the BaySide Inn set against the Saugatuck Harbor. Now it's time to relax the evening away on a donut boat ride cruise around the harbor! The rest of the night is yours to spend as you please with dinner on your own at any nearby restaurant that speaks to your appetite.

Day 2. Today we ride the sand dunes of Lake Michigan on an adventurous Dune Buggy Ride. As we zip over dunes that roll like waves on the ocean to the horizon, we'll learn of the lost town of Singapore, discover the special ecology of the dunes, and be amazed by stunning views of the rugged and captivating landscape. Now let's get within the sandy vistas on the trails in the Saugatuck Dunes State Park where we follow the rolling terrain straight to Lake Michigan. Spend some time on the beach searching for treasures and feeling the sand between your toes. Welkom to Holland! Wander the delightful downtown among sidewalks lined with local shops, galleries and plenty of restaurants to find a tasty lunch. Now we'll discover Dutch heritage and history throughout the spaces of Windmill Island Gardens. Climb the historic windmill, 'de Zwaan' that still grinds and turns grain into flour, hear tunes from a working street organ, and perhaps take a ride on the carousel. We can't miss "Big Red", an iconic lighthouse that begs to be photographed. From Holland State Park we'll get some great views! Once back in Saugatuck, the night is yours to spend as you please.

Day 3. It's time to head north for more coastal adventures, so let's get on our way! Amidst the famous sand dunes of Silver Lake State Park stands the spectacular Little Sable Point Lighthouse overlooking Lake Michigan. After taking in all the scenic dune views, we'll make our way to the Ludington North Breakwater Light. A short, exciting walk along the north pier will take us to its unique design and vibrant green light. Now that we've worked up a good appetite, it's a good thing that Goody's Lobster Shack isn't too far for an included lunch. Sleeping Bear Dunes Park is our destination and we'll arrive by the scenic Pierce Stocking drive with many striking stops along the way to take it all in. It's time for a Dune Climb! Grab the greatest views from the top and have fun running all the way back down. Our last stop of the day is our new home at Sutton's Bay Beach Club. Lying along the shoreline of the vineyard covered hills of the Leelanau Peninsula, (directly on the 45th parallel!) this is the perfect place to unwind and relax. Enjoy dinner right here at the hotel at your leisure and have a great night!

Day 4. Enjoy the morning watching the sun come up over the bay before the day's adventures. Charming Charlevoix is where we'll find unique, fanciful Mushroom Houses that perfectly fit within the landscape, artistically created by self-taught builder Earl Young. An easy walking tour of the town will take us past each unique home straight from a storybook. We'll first start at the lovely Victorian style Harsha House Museum and end at one of the prettiest public libraries you may have ever seen. Take some time to wander the downtown to find a bite to eat and don't forget to pop onto Michigan Beach Park in search of the elusive Charlevoix or Petoskey stones. Before leaving town, we'll take a driving tour of more Mushroom Houses along the Boulder Park area. Scenic drives lie ahead along the Tunnel of Trees pathway. The colors may not be out just yet but the amazing greenery surrounding us on all sides is still a sight to see. We'll stop in the quaint waterfront town of Harbor Springs for a short wander before resuming the winding road pathway to the Thorne Swift Nature Preserve. Here a tranquil trail along a picturesque boardwalk leads to a pristine Lake Michigan beach. We continue our journey through the verdant tree canopy past lush forests and scenic vistas to the small community of Cross Village. A special treat awaits at the iconic Legs Inn! Step inside this unique whimsical building for some delicious Polish cuisine for our included dinner and be delighted by its décor and superb outdoor garden.

Day 5. A picturesque drive through cherry orchards and vineyards of the Old Mission Peninsula will lead us to the lovely Mission Point Lighthouse located at its northernmost point. Take a wander and peek into life around the turn of the century when people lived and worked right here. Climb to the top for spectacular views, pop into the historic Hessler Log Cabin, and take a stroll along one of the historic trails keeping an eye out for "Indian Trees" bent purposefully to mark trails and local wildlife. Another special place in history is right nearby at the Old Mission General Store, where we can browse the eclectic array of supplies and provisions and enjoy an included lunch. Now it's time to take a walk on the wild side across the Michigan SkyBridge! The historic 2 person Hemlock Scenic Chairlift will glide us to the top of Boyne Mountain where the world's longest timber towered suspension bridge spans 1200 feet across over stunning forest views and distant rolling hills. Once back on firm ground, we'll make our way to downtown Petoskey, a little treasure of a town. Wander the Gaslight District filled with unique, local shops and historic charm, walk on water across the Petoskey Bayfront Breakwater out to the Petoskey Bayfront Light Beacon Station, or stroll along the scenic promenade of Bayfront Park. As we make our way back towards Sutton Bay, we'll stop for a surprising, fun and unusual spot for an included dinner. Have a restful night!

Day 6. Enjoy a serene, leisurely morning among the bay relaxing or strolling along the beach. Today we stay close to home and explore the endless natural beauty of the Leelanau Peninsula. We start in lovely Leland, a small coastal town with a vast history including Historic Fishtown, one of the last thriving fishing districts on the Great Lakes. Take some time to wander the quaint streets dotted with local shops down to the picturesque harbor or out to Van's Beach. To delve into local history, pop into the Leelanau Historical Society Museum and connect to all the stories of the land and its people. On our way out, we'll grab our included picnic lunch from the charming Village Cheese Shanty and head straight north to the top where Leelanau State Park houses the Grand Traverse Lighthouse that has been watching over its shores since 1858. After our lunch beautiful views are in every direction when you climb the tower and history can be found among the Keeper's House, Fog Signal Building and Shipwreck Exhibition. Our last night will be a most special one aboard Wind Dancer's Sunset Sail where you can experience the magic of hearing only wind and water as the sun sets creating a most magical sky. A generous picnic dinner will be included along with beer, wine, cocktails, and champagne. Cheers to a wonderful night and a fabulous time in Michigan!

Day 7. Enjoy one last bayside morning before we make our way to the Grand Rapids Airport when we wave goodbye to Michigan and hello to New Jersey. © 2025 The Educated Wanderer

Air transportation is provided by United Airlines. A surcharge will apply if United Airlines increases the price of its airfare. One piece of luggage per person (baggage fee by United is not included) and one small carry-on are permitted. **A valid, government-issued picture ID is required to board the plane.**

Sunday, September 13: Flight # departs Newark at PM and arrives in Grand Rapids at PM

Saturday, September 19: Flight # departs Grand Rapids at PM and arrives in Newark at PM

Price per person is \$Twin & \$ Single. No reservations accepted without a deposit of \$500 per person. Make checks payable to "Educated Wanderer" and mail to our address above. Final payment is due May 25, 2026. There are no refunds if cancellation occurs after May 25, 2026. The Educated Wanderer is not responsible for any delays, cancellations, injuries or circumstances beyond its control and reserves the right to change the itinerary. All trip components are subject to change in accordance with Government, State and Local guidelines and/or mandates. Travel protection/cancellation coverage is available and highly recommended, but not included. This tour will run rain or shine.

*Due to the changes in airline booking policies, airfare will need to be booked before the cancellation date. Once flights are booked, we cannot refund that portion of the tour unless you'd like to pay an additional cost for refundable tickets.

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Please Reserve _____ seat(s). The enclosed check is for: \$_____ #3381

Legal Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

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