

An aerial photograph of a lake shore. The water is a deep blue-green color. A white boat with a canopy is moving across the water, leaving a white wake. In the foreground, a small yellow kayak is visible. The shoreline is rocky and covered with dense green trees. The sky is a pale blue.

**INSIDER
GUIDES**
from VisitTheUSA

ON THE SHORES OF THE GREAT LAKES

ILLINOIS – WISCONSIN – MINNESOTA – MICHIGAN

ON THE SHORES OF THE GREAT LAKES

Note: Option to start in Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; or Detroit, Michigan



Chicago, Illinois to Madison, Wisconsin

3 hours/237 kilometres

Madison, Wisconsin to Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

4 hours and 15 minutes/440 kilometres

Minneapolis/St. Paul to Grand Rapids, Minnesota

3 hours/286 kilometres

Grand Rapids, Minnesota to Bayfield, Wisconsin

3 hours/261 kilometres

Bayfield, Wisconsin to Marquette, Michigan

3 hours and 45 minutes/330 kilometres

Marquette, Michigan to St. Ignace, Michigan

2 hours and 45 minutes/256 kilometres

St. Ignace, Michigan to Detroit, Michigan

4 hours and 45 minutes/476 kilometres

Detroit, Michigan to Saugatuck, Michigan

3 hours and 15 minutes/317 kilometres

Saugatuck, Michigan to Milwaukee, Wisconsin

4 hours and 30 minutes/386 kilometres

Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Chicago, Illinois

2 hours and 30 minutes/148 kilometres

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Day 1

Chicago, Illinois, the Midwest's cultural capital, is a family-friendly destination. **Millennium Park** is a must-visit for year-round events and world-class public art, and the **Navy Pier** offers amusement park rides, shopping and dining. The **Field Museum of Natural History** and the **Shedd Aquarium** are among the largest museums of their kind in the world. Art aficionados can peruse a collection of more than 300,000 objects at the **Art Institute of Chicago**. Visitors can take a boat cruise

along the Chicago River and into Lake Michigan to view the spectacular skyline, or get a panoramic perspective at **360 Chicago**, on the 94th floor of the **John Hancock Center**. The bravest of souls can experience **TILT**, a glass observation cubicle that leans out at a 30-degree angle high above Michigan Avenue.

Accommodation: Chicago, Illinois

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360 Chicago, Illinois

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

Day 4

Start with a stroll through the **Minneapolis Sculpture Garden** (don't miss the iconic **Spoonbridge** and **Cherry sculpture**) and visit the **Walker Art Center**. Root for the home team at a **Minnesota Twins** baseball game at Target Field or set aside a day to tour the **Mall of America**, a huge shopping mall packed with 400-plus shops, restaurants and entertainment venues, including an aquarium and indoor amusement park. Cross the

Mississippi River to Minneapolis' 'twin', St. Paul, to see **Minnesota's Capitol Building**, festooned with golden horses, then walk along **Summit Avenue** to see the city's historic mansions. While there, save time to explore the well-curated, interactive **Science Museum of Minnesota**.

Accommodation: Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

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Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Minnesota



ST. IGNACE/MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

Day 9

Tucked between Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas, the entirety of Mackinac Island is a **National Historic Landmark**, nearly all of it protected as a state park. The ferry that runs from the mainland operates on a seasonal schedule, with limited service in the winter. Slow down and experience this destination, which takes visitors back in time. The Victorian

architecture, absence of chain hotels and island-wide ban on cars makes it feel like a throwback to a simpler era. Walk, bike or take a horse-drawn carriage to get around.

Accommodation: St. Ignace, Michigan

