

Tour

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The tour then proceeds to Sault Ste. Marie and a short tour of the Point Iroquois Lighthouse, returning to the Canadian Soo for a Locks Dinner Cruise on the Chief Shingwauk, named for the Ojibwa Indian chief.

It is the newest passenger vessel on the St. Mary's River, with a climate-controlled viewing lounge and food and beverage service.

An upper deck viewing lounge gave us an extraordinary view of the International Bridge. The

industrial area of Ontario was lit up at night with the Algoma steel mills at work. We neared Lake Superior before turning back to go through the U.S. Sabin Lock, built in 1916.

On our return, those young and foolish enough went to the casino and outdoor show, while we older and wiser ones went back to our hotel rooms to rest up for an early departure and tour of the Algoma Canyon on the Algoma Central Railway.

The Railway furnishes both breakfast and lunch in the dining car, although some day passengers bring their own picnic lunches.

The smoke-free train features wonderfully comfortable seats, in which we could recline and look at the scenery. We traveled through the pre-Cambrian rock canyons, past fine wilderness areas with firs, white pine and birches, edging many lakes and rivers while going up mountains and down valleys.

Soon after leaving the station, we saw Lake Superior and the Goulais River, and we began to spot deer and the occasional moose.

The town of Mashkose was followed by Trout Lake and many other lakes, some with cabins, some with none. At Otter Creek, the train descends 1,200 ft. in the last miles of the Agawa Canyon. There, the train stops for lunch, and passengers can walk along the well-marked trails, which lead to scenic views of the falls. Even on a cloudy day, the views were beautiful.

On our return to the Holiday Inn Express, we had time for a short rest



Special to the Record-Eagle/Ellen Barnes

Left: Colonial Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City, a former home of settlers. Below: Old Mackinaw Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City.



before a tour and dinner with entertainment at the Canadian Heritage Bushplane Museum. Before dinner, guests sipped drinks and wandered through the exhibits.

The entertainment that evening was called "I am a Canadian," a splendid, "theater in the round"-type performance with the cast standing in various places throughout the dining area telling of the life of the early settlers.

Once again, there is the option to go to the casino or back to the Holiday Inn to rest up for another early start, following breakfast

in the hotel dining room the next morning.

The fourth day features a tour of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the River of History Museum and the historic Ship Valley Camp. By 11:30 a.m., the cruise down the St. Mary's River begins.

Lunch is served aboard before arriving at Detour, where a motorcoach waits for the final, hour-long trip to Mackinaw City at Audie's Restaurant, a block away from the hotel.

Following the mini-breakfast at the Parkside Inn, guests are free to take a tour to Mackinac Island or depart for home.

Professionally escorted and narrated by Mike Fornes' Straits Area Step On Guide Tour Service, the tours will be offered June 9, June 15, July 14, July 21, Aug. 10, Aug. 17 and Sept. 8. For more details, write Step On Guide Service, P.O. Box 305, Mackinaw City, MI 49701.

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