

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS

September 22 – 29, 2024

Cruising the Great Lakes

EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER
RIC MIXTER

Cruising the Great Lakes

Embark on a journey from cosmopolitan Toronto to Milwaukee during early autumn, when the region's foliage begins to put on its breathtaking, vibrant show.

During this unforgettable cruise, call at smaller ports and discover some of North America's most alluring towns, visionary cities and magnificent coastal scenery. Thrill to thundering Niagara Falls, followed by an immersive visit to Detroit, an archetype for 20th-century urban growth and the birthplace of Motown. Experience the Motor City's fascinating cultural legacy at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House and the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation.

Enjoy transiting the historic Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie and the Welland Canal, two of the world's most celebrated 19th-century engineering feats and major catalysts for industrial growth and innovation. Glide on the protected waters near Tobermory, part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Plus, enjoy a nostalgic horse-drawn carriage ride along the picturesque streets of quaint Mackinac Island — unchanged for over 100 years. All of these experiences and more await on this wonderful Great Lakes adventure!

Front cover: Hornblower cruise, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

This page: Mackinac Island, Michigan



Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Michigan



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF

The Association of Former Students®



Howdy, Ags!

As the largest surface of fresh water on Earth and the gateway between the Eastern Seaboard and the Midwest, the Great Lakes are ideal for exploring North America's rich maritime history, passion for invention and sublime natural wonders. This expertly created, seven-night program cruises all five of the Great Lakes — Ontario, Erie, Superior, Huron and Michigan.

Unpack once and cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star LE BELLOT, featuring only 92 suites and staterooms, each with a private balcony. Then, navigate a course through Great Lakes' history and pristine beauty beginning at the awe-inspiring Niagara Falls, where a thunderous cascade of crashing water summons one of life's most mesmerizing spectacles. Continue on to discover Detroit, Michigan, home to world-class museums and Motown. Indulge in visits to beloved Tobermory and charming Mackinac Island, and enjoy an enthralling transit of the Soo Locks.

This refined itinerary aboard the LE BELLOT, with all meals and excursions included, triumphs the vitality, dynamism and natural beauty of North America's five Great Lakes. We encourage you to make your reservations while space and early booking savings are still available!

Gig 'em!

Julie Scamardo
Manager of Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students

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Email: TravelingAggies@AggieNetwork.com

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**



GUEST SPEAKER

RIC MIXTER

Maritime historian, journalist and author Ric Mixer is one of the most requested speakers on the Great Lakes. He has dived over 100 wrecks in the Great Lakes, served as cameraman on underwater expeditions to the Edmund Fitzgerald and Carl D. Bradley and interviewed survivors connected to the Novadoc, James H. Reed and Cedarville shipwrecks as well as other wrecks in lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie.

Driven by his passion for storytelling, Ric's impressive work includes over 30 programs for PBS and the Outdoor Channel and he has been featured as a shipwreck expert on the History and Discovery Channels.

Ric has been awarded by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society and the Association for Great Lakes Maritime Historians. He served as president of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association and is a board member for the prestigious Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society.

When he's not underwater exploring vessels that once sailed the Great Lakes, Ric can be found flying single-engine planes as well as time in F-16s, B-52s and the Goodyear Blimp.



MARITIME MARVELS



Sault Ste. Marie Bridge, Soo Locks, Michigan

In the heart of North America lies the world's largest reservoir of fresh water, carved by glaciers 10,000 years ago. Surrounded by 11,000 miles of spectacularly sculpted shoreline, the five Great Lakes boast powerful natural wonders, historical maritime landmarks and some of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century. Our tour offers a glimpse of life on the Great Lakes over the last two centuries as we

visit the nearly 200-year-old Welland Canal that connects Lake Erie with Lake Ontario and the mighty Soo Locks — one located in Sault Ste. Marie in Ontario, Canada, and the other in a city by the same name in Michigan. Learn more about this fascinating maritime history at the SS Valley Camp Museum, housed in a 1917 lake freighter, where two lifeboats from the famous Edmund Fitzgerald shipwreck are on display.



Welland Canal



SS Valley Camp

INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



8-DAY/7-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City/ Toronto, Canada/ Embark/Lake Ontario/ Welland Canal

Day 1

Arrive in Toronto and cruise through eight locks of the Welland Canal. Constructed in the early 19th century, the canal links Lake Ontario to Lake Erie and is one of North America's most important economic lifelines. Tonight, gather with new friends for the Captain's Welcome Reception. (R,D)

Port Colborne/ Niagara Falls/Lake Erie

Day 2

Drive to Niagara Falls, a natural phenomenon formed by three waterfalls: American Falls, Horseshoe Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. Get up close to the amazing landmark and experience the sheer force of this geological wonder during a Hornblower Cruise to the base of Horseshoe Falls.

After a specially arranged lunch, visit the landmark Niagara Parks Power Station, filled with immersive exhibits and artifacts. Then pause at a scenic overlook to witness the 410 million-year-old layers of the Niagara Gorge and the raging Whirlpool Rapids. Pass by the Sir Adam Beck Power Station, the world's first large-scale hydroelectric generation project, and see Niagara's famous Floral Clock, intricately filled with 20,000 plants and flowers. This evening, cruise Lake Erie. (B,L,D)

Detroit, Michigan, U.S.

Day 3

Get to know Detroit on an orientation tour, followed by a visit to the historic Fisher Building, decorated with sumptuous mosaics, marble and bronze accents. Next, join your guide for a tour

of the acclaimed Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, which spotlights the creative genius of American inventors and innovators that represent defining moments in U.S. history. See Kennedy's presidential limo, the chair where Lincoln was assassinated in Ford's Theater and the bus where Rosa Parks refused to vacate her seat. Detroit is known as the birthplace of Motown and tonight's entertainment features the soulful tunes of legendary singer-songwriter Tee Turner of the Motown group, The Miracles. (B,L,D)

Detroit/Lake Huron

Day 4

Begin today's adventures at the Detroit Institute of Arts, one of the most significant collections of art in the nation, housed in a magnificent Beaux Arts building. See Diego Rivera's monumental "Detroit Industry"



"Detroit Industry" mural, Diego Rivera,
Detroit Institute of Arts



Flowerpot Island, Tobermory

mural, which captures the city's blue-collar history, as well as masterworks by Auguste Rodin, Vincent van Gogh, Michelangelo, Edgar Degas and Paul Cézanne. Then, step into history during a visit to the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, designed by architect Albert Kahn. Settle in under the stars while cruising Lake Huron tonight. (B,L,D)

Tobermory, Canada/ Lake Huron

Day 5

Venture out to explore beautiful Tobermory, located at the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula. Board a glass-bottom boat and cruise atop crystal-clear waters from Little Tub Harbor to Big Tub Harbor. Along the way, look for Big Tub Lighthouse, Flowerpot Island and the remains of the schooner **Sweepstakes**, which sank

in 1885. Enjoy time at leisure to savor local gelato, sip craft beer or browse art galleries. Prepare for more stunning views tonight as your cruise continues. (B,L,D)

Soo Locks/Lake Superior/ Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, U.S.

Day 6

This morning, transit the Soo Locks from Lake Huron to Lake Superior and back. Arrive in Sault Ste. Marie and explore the **SS Valley Camp**, a retired lake freighter that is now a museum featuring exhibits of faithfully restored living quarters and the tragic loss of the **Edmund Fitzgerald**. Continue to the Soo Locks Interpretation Center and watch colossal freighters lower 21 feet from Lake Superior to enter Lake Huron. Later tonight, watch a First Nations dance performance on the ship. (B,L,D)

Mackinac Island/ Lake Michigan

Day 7

Set off on a nostalgic horse-drawn carriage ride around the island with a photo stop at the famed Arch Rock. Enjoy lunch at the Grand Hotel Mackinac. The hotel's elegant dining room overlooks the world's longest porch, displaying the hotel's many American flags, as well as the sparkling Straits of Mackinac. Continue to Fort Mackinac for a guided visit. Back on board, cruise Lake Michigan and attend the Captain's Farewell Reception. (B,L,R,D)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin/ Disembark/Return to Home City

Day 8

Following breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



Glass-bottom boat cruise



LE BELLOT Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, 5-star **Le Bellot**, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design for a new standard of cruising. Each of the 92 deluxe staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand Deluxe Suites have a panoramic window and private terrace. Accommodations offer two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, private bathroom with shower and luxury hotel-style amenities.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: September 22 to 29 (Embarkation: September 22 at 4:00 pm)			
Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes</i>	Early Booking Savings through April 24, 2024	Rate after April 24, 2024
8	Deluxe stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3. (limited availability)	\$6,345	\$7,000
7	Prestige stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 4.	\$7,170	\$7,915
6	Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 5.	\$8,000	\$8,840
5	Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 6.	\$9,035	\$9,990
4	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 3. (limited availability)	\$9,865	\$10,910
3	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 4, midship. (limited availability)	\$10,690	\$11,830
2	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 5.	\$11,725	\$12,980
1	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 6.	\$12,555	\$13,900
Prestige Suite II	Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)	\$13,590	\$15,050
Prestige Suite I	Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 6. (limited availability)	\$14,415	\$15,965
Privilege Suite	Large suite with expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , sitting area with sofa. Decks 5 and 6. (limited availability)	\$15,245	\$16,890
Grand Deluxe Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace , full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Decks 6. (limited availability)	\$16,075	\$17,810
Owner's Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Deck 5. (limited availability)	\$18,145	\$20,110

BONUS SAVINGS! Pay in full at the time of booking to receive additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Single supplements apply to categories 6, 7, & 8 at 160% of the per person double price and are subject to availability. Single price for all other cabin categories is at 200%.

Port taxes in the amount of \$450 per person are included in the above prices. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve

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PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Toronto

September 20 to 22, 2024 (Tour Begins: September 20)

Start your Great Lakes voyage early in cosmopolitan Toronto, one of North America's most celebrated cultural melting pots. Enjoy a walking tour of the Distillery District, Canada's premier arts, culture and entertainment destination, and visit Fort York, built in 1793 on the shores of Lake Ontario. Enjoy lunch in the CN Tower's 360-degree revolving restaurant. Visit Casa Loma, a Gothic Revival mansion and garden built in the style of a European castle by Sir Henry Mill Pellatt. Tour the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto's crowning jewel with a collection of over 80,000 works.

Accommodations for two nights are in the historic

Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$1,315**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$1,535**



POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Milwaukee

September 29 to October 1, 2024 (Tour Ends: October 1)

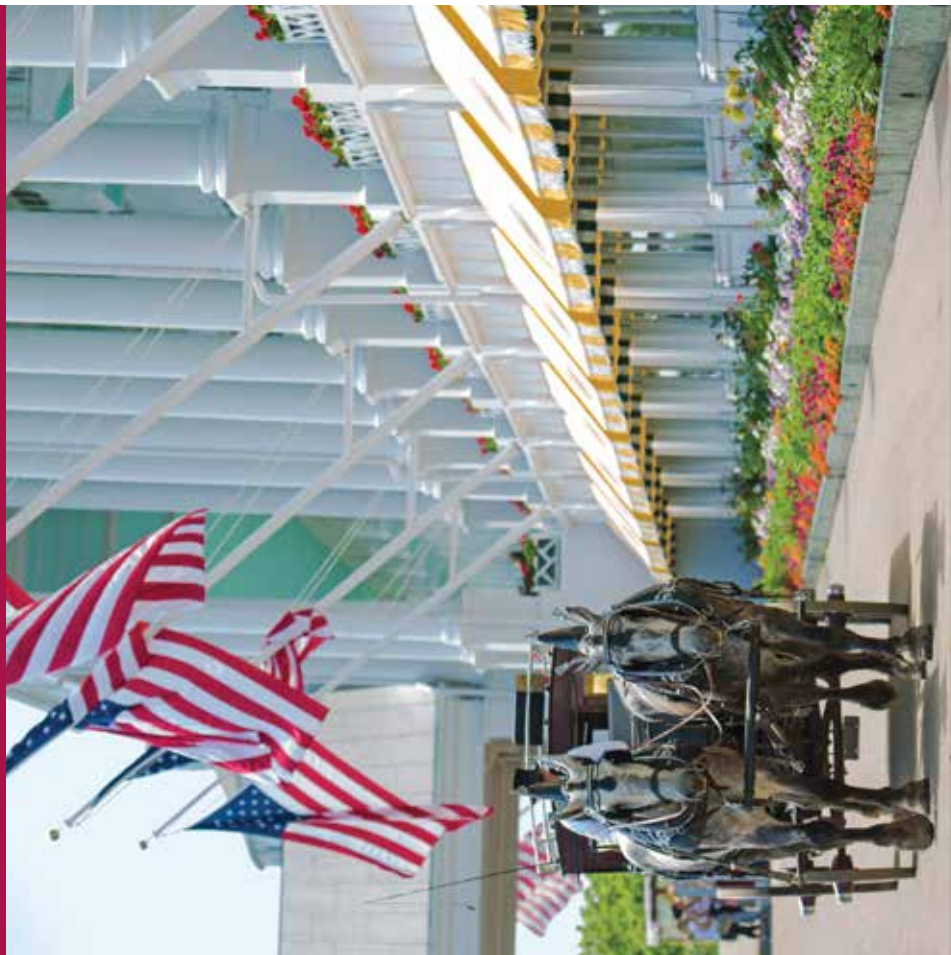
Rich in architectural treasures and world-class institutions, vibrant Milwaukee is the perfect extension to your Great Lakes cruise. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the historic North Point neighborhood — home to one of the finest collections of Victorian mansions in the Midwest — and tour the expansive Milwaukee Art Museum, an impressive addition to Milwaukee's revitalized waterfront. Visit the striking Pabst Mansion, built in Flemish style by Pabst Brewing Company president Frederick Pabst. Accommodations for two nights are in the centrally located **Pfister Hotel.**

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$985**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$1,315**

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

SPECIAL SAVINGS! Early Booking up to \$3,930 per couple, plus receive Bonus Savings if you pay in full at the time of booking! Call for details.



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