

## Michigan Sunrise Tours

Northwest Michigan's natural landscapes and maritime attractions are featured on packages offered by Michigan Sunrise Tours, a receptive tour operator based in Au Gres. This two-year-old company is a division of Charity Island Transport, which runs cruises to the 300-acre Charity Island in Saginaw Bay.

"We offer customized tours that include a five-hour gourmet dinner cruise to Charity Island, as well as attractions throughout the area," said Marketing Director Heidi Dewald. The following three-night, four-day itinerary is among the company's most popular tours.

**Day 1** Arrive in Bay City, a major antique center, in time for a gallery walk. Discover area history during a three-course dinner sail on Saginaw Bay or enjoy this evening's cooking demonstration dinner at a local restaurant.

**Day 2** Following breakfast, learn about Bay City's many National and State Historic Register homes during a driving tour. After a mid-morning tour

and tea at Matthew 6:26 Gallery & Inn, travel to East Tawas before boarding the 50-foot passenger vessel *Shirley Ann* in Au Gres for a five-hour dinner cruise. Stop at Gravelly Shoals Light before arriving at Charity Island to hear a presentation on the island's history, and enjoy dinner and take a tour of the lightkeeper's home.

**Day 3** After breakfast, tour the Tawas Point Lighthouse on Tawas Point, a busy flyway for migratory birds each spring and fall. Next, visit the Sturgeon Point Lighthouse in Harrisville before traveling to Alpena for lunch at the Old Fletcher Paper Mill and a tour of the Fletcher Street Brewing Company. The next stop is Alpena's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, where shipwrecks can be explored via live video feeds.

The day ends at Thunder Bay Resort, where we take a horse-drawn carriage



Hillman's Thunder Bay Resort is home to an elk preserve.

ride to the resort's Elk Preserve before enjoying a gourmet five-course dinner.

**Day 4** The final day begins with a drive through Oscoda County, Michigan's largest community of Amish and Mennonites, and a stop at the Pioneer General Store, known as the Amish Mall. After lunch at Lumber Jack Food & Spirits, listed by *The Detroit News* as one of the top three places to dine in mid-Michigan, we depart for home.

**For more information**, contact Heidi Dewald, Michigan Sunrise Tours, 989.876.6018, [www.michigansunrise.com](http://www.michigansunrise.com), member since 2007. —B.F.



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