

MONDAY DAY TRIPS

If you take the option of arriving on Sunday evening, you'll have all day Monday (please note Conference Registration is 5-6 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and worship at 7 p.m.) to take a Day Trip ... If you're starting from Saint Ignace, watch your time: *If you wish to have more time at these locations, there is plenty of lodging (even 'on site' at Whitefish Point) available; but there will be no "conference rate" ...however, this early in the Tourist Season, you *may* be able to negotiate your own rate.

+ Sault Ste. Marie

Spend your Monday visiting the oldest city in Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie, founded in 1668. I-75 begins (at the south end) in Florida. The last northbound exit on I-75 is Exit 394. A short 50 mile drive straight up I-75 will get you there...

<https://www.saultstemarie.com/>

By May 15th/Mothers' Day most of the "tourist season" attractions are open and ready for a visit.

<https://www.saultstemarie.com/member-detail/soo-locks-visitor-center/>

Located within the Soo Locks Park on Portage Avenue, this picturesque park and information center offers visitors to the Sault a tremendous opportunity to experience the engineering marvel that is the Soo Locks. Numerous displays inside the Center chronicle the construction and the men that made the Locks possible. A thirty-minute movie provides a historical perspective on the need and use of this maritime wonder.

+ Tahquamenon Falls/Whitefish Point

From St. Ignace, drive 73 miles up US-123 (I-75 to exit 352) to visit Tahquamenon Falls.

<http://www.michigandnr.com/ParksandTrails/Details.aspx?id=428&type=SPRK>

The centerpiece of Tahquamenon Falls State Park's 50,000 acres is the Tahquamenon River with its waterfalls. The Upper Falls, one of the largest waterfalls east of the Mississippi, has a drop of nearly 50 feet, more than 200 feet across and a water flow of more than 50,000 gallons per second.

Once you make it to "Paradise" (Yes, you'll visit Paradise on this day trip), you can remain on US-123 to the Falls or keep going north (when US-123 heads west) and visit Whitefish Point. (or, do both; but watch your time*)

<https://www.shipwreckmuseum.com/>

Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society is to:

Preserve lights and stations which warned mariners of the dangers inherent, Honor those who were aboard and who bravely attempted rescue and Discover, document and interpret vessels which instead took the deep.

+ Take US-2 west out of Saint Ignace...

<http://www.stignace.com/woodland-dunes/>

Woodland Dunes

Witness the beautiful white sand dunes and beaches that dot the shores of Lake Michigan and offer great swimming opportunities. Enjoy a fresh fish dinner at one of the many restaurants along the way.

Cut River Bridge/Roadside Park

Park has picnic tables with some charcoal pits, restrooms and trails.

Originally constructed in the 1940's (with construction interrupted by World War II), the bridge itself is 147 feet above the Cut River, and a generous stairway with 230-plus steps provides access to several trails along the river and to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The real beauty of this site, however, lies hidden among the rolling, forested dunes of the Lake Superior State Forest and within the forested river valley below. Hike the Cut River trails in May to view spring wildflowers such as trout lily, trillium's, and Dutchman's breeches. Spring, especially in the month of May, is also a good time to view migrating warblers and other songbirds that follow the Lake Michigan shore and concentrate at the mouth and along the gorge due to the rich insect life emerging from the river.

Hawks and owls also follow the coastline as they head to their northern breeding grounds in late April and early May. A diversity of forest songbirds use the forested gorge in the spring and summer as breeding habitat and offer good viewing opportunities along the trails. Interpretive markers help visitors identify plants and trees along the way.

Garlyn Zoological Park

Only 40 minutes west of St. Ignace and the Mackinac Bridge on US-2. Enjoy animals up close. See Tiger, Cougar, Wolves, Grizzly Bear, Ring-tailed lemur, Alligator, Camel and more! Feed the deer, goats, llama, and even the bear! Our gift shop is filled with wildlife related items for all ages. Kids love it!!! Fun for the whole family! Open 7 days a week from May 1st until September 30th, 10am until 6pm. In October, open 7 days a week, 10am until 5pm.

+ Take M-134 east (I-75 north to exit #359) turn right...

<http://www.stignace.com/north-huron-heritage/>

Hessel

[Honestly, not a lot to do in Hessel, (unless you happen to be up for the Boat Show the 2nd week in August), except to stop by the Art Studio of a certain beloved retired U.P. Pastor named Kilponen. <http://lescheneaux.org/shops-services/local-art/>]

Cedarville

DeTour

Drummond Island

[Yooper hint... the door is always open if you suddenly have the need to ... umm...visit a Lutheran Church.]

+ Mackinac Island

<http://www.mackinac.com/>

Not a lot of verbiage needed to introduce Mackinac Island... but it would be considered a "Day Trip." ...to make the opening service? No later than a 6:00pm Ferry.

A Stay Trip

There are also plenty of things to do right here in the Straits area, as the links below will show.

Saint Ignace Saint Ignace is the 2nd oldest city in Michigan (founded in 1671)

<http://www.stignace.com/>

Mackinaw City

<https://www.mackinawcity.com/>

[Please permit a Yooper 'pet peeve': The 'Mackinaw' of Mackinaw City ends with a "w". Everything north...the Straits of Mackinac, Mackinac Island, Mackinac County, the Bridge...ends with a "c". Why it matters, I'm not sure...but, having lived up here for 40 years, it does. Thank you.]

OR...A Night Trip

Headlands International Dark Sky Park

<http://www.midarkskypark.org/>

If the sky is clear on Sunday night (or Monday/Tuesday) the Dark Sky Park, about 2 miles west of Mackinaw City, away from all 'city lights' is THE place to stargaze... check out the link for pictures, etc.