



AUGUST 2-7, 2026

Legacy Journey to Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Surrounded by 1,700 miles of lakeshore, from Lake Superior, Michigan, and Huron, the Upper Peninsula is a land unlike any other. Snowy winters, long summer days, and fall colors bring outdoor enthusiasts of all varieties.

It is said that in Michigan you are never more than six miles from a lake, and the Upper Peninsula is home to over 4,000 of them. Diverse wetlands, stunning rock outcroppings, and austere forests provide shelter to an incredible amount of wildlife. The Nature Conservancy has preserved nearly 390,000 acres of land across Michigan — safeguarding thriving cities, quiet farmlands, and woodland preserves in order to protect crucial ecosystems and natural treasures.

With TNC experts by your side, this journey promises to provide access and insight into the Upper Peninsula that most visitors never experience.



Photos: Mary MacDonald Preserve, Horseshoe Harbor, MI © Jason Whalen/Big Foot Media;

Legacy Journey Highlights

- Hike beneath dramatic granite cliff tops at TNC's Echo Lake Nature Preserve.
- Take to the sky on a seaplane with remote, wildlife-filled Isle Royale National Park as your destination.
- Set out on a kayaking adventure to explore the sandy beaches and wetlands along Lake Superior.



Itinerary Overview

DAY 1

Sunday, August 2

Welcome to Michigan! After arrival at Sawyer International Airport, collect your bags and look for your TNC Hosts and Iconic Trip Leader who will be holding up a sign with The Nature Conservancy. If you are arriving early to explore Marquette, hotel pickups will be planned in advance.

Once all guests have arrived, we will gather at the Landmark Inn for brief introductions, followed by lunch. After, depart to TNC's Echo Lake Preserve, a 480-acre preserve whose natural lake is surrounded by a landscape of dramatic bluffs of exposed bedrock. Look for moose, river otter, and neotropical migratory birds as you hike through this protected area. We will be joined by Emily Clegg, TNC Director of Land and Water Management as we hike a gentle 2.4 miles around the preserve.

In the afternoon, we will drive 15 minutes to the The Landmark Inn where you'll have time to check-in and relax or explore Downtown Marquette. Meet in the lobby this evening for a short walk to Delft Bistro for our Welcome Reception and dinner.

Overnight at The Landmark Inn, Marquette, MI

DAY 2

Monday, August 3

After breakfast at the hotel, we will drive 1.5 hours to the Slate River Timberlands in the Michigamme Highlands to meet with local TNC hosts for an in-depth tour of the forested landscape and discussions about forest management. Local TNC staff Alex Helman, Forest Project Manager, and John Den Uyl, Project Manager of Forest and Climate Conservation, will join us for lunch prior to starting our explorations.

Comprising 10,550 acres of the highest-quality managed native forests in the Michigamme Highlands, Slate River Forest provides a compelling story of what a thriving future could look like for Michigan's Upper Peninsula forests. From towering hemlock trees to free-flowing rivers, the property is biologically rich, diverse, and beautiful.

Following another 1.5-hour drive this afternoon, we will arrive in Copper Harbor; Michigan's northernmost community, it was first settled in 1843 after the discovery of pure copper deposits and eventually became the main shipping point for copper exporting. It is here we will check into our lodging for the next three nights, Bella Vista Motel. Dinner will be in town this evening.

Overnight at Bella Vista Motel, Copper Harbor, MI

Welcome to Michigan!

Dip your toes in sparkling fresh water during a visit to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, which boasts more than 4,000 lakes scattered along rugged coastlines and rock outcroppings, peaceful forests, and complex wetlands that host a vast array of wildlife. On this journey, experience the unparalleled beauty of Lake Superior's shores. Starting in Marquette, explore the coast to its northernmost point, which projects into Lake Superior and carries the moniker of Copper Country to mark its prominence in the nation's first mining boom in the 1800s. From the rocks below to the sky above, this adventure promises to provide insights into places many visitors often miss.



Conservation Highlight: Keweenaw Peninsula

The Keweenaw Peninsula features some of the most spectacular landscapes in Michigan and is highly valued for its recreational value and ecological importance. Wild forests, granitic balds, and volcanic shorelines make up this unique area that The Nature Conservancy and its partners are working to protect.

One such area is Bete Grise Wetlands Preserve, home to quality Great Lake Marshes, 1.5 miles of beautiful sand beach along Lake Superior, and numerous plant and animal species. In the early 2000s, this area was slated for a housing development; together with the Houghton/Keweenaw Conservation District and other partners, and months of public meetings and negotiation, the property was set aside for conservation.

Photo: Bella Vista Motel, Copper Harbor, MI ©
Meg Thomson/TNC

Itinerary Overview

DAY 3

Tuesday, August 4

After breakfast, you'll have the opportunity to visit TNC's stunning Bete Grise Wetlands Preserve. This preserve boasts nearly two miles of pristine sand beaches along Lake Superior and roughly 1,500 acres of diverse wetlands. Here, we will be joined by Chris Cantway, Restoration Associate, UP Lead to learn more about these wetlands, and explore via kayaks.

We will return to Copper Harbor and use the remainder of the afternoon to explore. Lunch will be on your own and at your leisure in town. You may choose to walk to Hunter's Point Park (25-minute walk); with 4,800 feet of shoreline, take time to bird watching, explore the colorful and unique rock formations, and enjoying the views of Lake Superior. Your Iconic Leader will also be available to drive to Copper Harbor Lighthouse.

This evening, our seafood dinner this evening will be at Harbor Haus, situated on the shore of Lake Superior.

Overnight at Bella Vista Motel, Copper Harbor, MI

DAY 4

Wednesday, August 5

Today begins with an early morning in preparation for a full day's adventure. After breakfast at the Lodge, we'll drive about an hour south to Houghton where we will board a seaplane to Isle Royale National Park. A remote island at the edge of Lake Superior, it is a car-free wilderness of forests, lakes, and waterways. On this 35-minute flight, take in the exceptional views from above. It is here that the true scale of Lake Superior comes into focus. Mindy Kantola, Project Manager, Forest Partnerships will be joining us for the day.

Upon arrival on Isle Royale, there will be a brief overview of the park before setting off to explore the scenic Rock Harbor Trail. Lunch will be had amongst the forest or along the lake shore at your leisure. Be sure to pack a bathing suit if you want to take a dip in the clear, crisp waters!

Return via seaplane in the late afternoon before dinner at The Den Restaurant in Houghton. After, return to Copper Harbor.

*Please note that today's activity is weather dependent.

**Flights are regulated by the National Park Service to control capacity and transportation logistics; as such, note that our group will be split into two departure times, one at 8AM and one at 10AM. Given the drive time to the takeoff and the arrival time required by the vendor, this will be an early morning for those on the first flight. Return flights will be staggered as well, so all guests will receive the same amount of time at Isle Royale.

Overnight at Bella Vista Motel, Copper Harbor, MI



Conservation Highlight: Slate River Forest Reserve

Comprising 10,550 acres of the highest-quality managed native forests in the Michigan Highlands, Slate River Forest provides a compelling story of what a thriving future could look like for Michigan's Upper Peninsula forests. From towering hemlock trees to free-flowing rivers, the property is rich, diverse, and stunningly beautiful.

TNC scientists have worked to show that this area is some of the most resilient land in Michigan—meaning that it can sustain natural diversity in the face of a changing climate. Conserving these large areas of intact, mature forest lands are an important step toward a healthy, thriving future for Upper Peninsula forests and the communities that depend upon them. TNC's vision for this amazing place is to conserve and protect the beautiful woods and waters while continuing the careful management of forest resources.

Itinerary Overview (cont.)

DAY 5

Thursday, August 6

Today is our final day to explore the Keweenaw Peninsula.

After breakfast, depart for the Mary Macdonald Preserve at Horseshoe Harbor. Here, meet with Geosciences Research Scientist Dr. Erika Vye for a short hike in the largest mainland preserve for bedrock beaches and bedrock glade communities. This preserve is home to 11 threatened or rare species of plants that are protected by the rocky ridge in front of the shoreline—creating an important barrier for inland species and slower-growing plants.

Following our morning explorations, we will travel to the town of Calumet, which was once the center of Michigan's copper mining industry. We'll stop at Brockway Mountain along the way for the incredible views and Julia Petersen, Project Manager, Keweenaw Peninsula, will share details about the Keweenaw Heartlands Project.

After lunch in Calumet, we'll meet with Wyndeth Davis, Superintendent of Keweenaw National Historic Park. We'll have an opportunity to spend time at the Calumet Visitor Center and The Mining Museum to learn about the fascinating story of the Copper Country and America's first real mining boom.

In the afternoon, our drive continues two hours towards Marquette before checking back in to the Landmark Inn.

Our final dinner will be at a local favorite steakhouse, Elizabeth's Chophouse, where we will be joined by Emily Clegg, TNC Michigan's Director of Land and Water Management.

Overnight at The Landmark Inn, Marquette, MI

DAY 6

Friday, August 7

Bid farewell to Michigan!

After breakfast at your hotel, airport transfers will be coordinated based on flight times.



Trip Cost

Double Occupancy: \$6,295/person

Single Occupancy: \$6,995/person

This trip must have 14 travelers.

This cost includes:

- Accommodations
- All ground transportation
- All meals beginning with lunch on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on Day 6
- All activities
- All gratuities
- All park entrance fees and permitting
- All guides
- Iconic Leaders
- 2 TNC hosts

This cost excludes:

- Travel to and from Marquette, Michigan
- Travel insurance
- Incidentals and spa services
- Alcohol, beyond the welcome reception



Photos (from top to bottom): Slate River Forest, MI © Doug Pearsall/TNC; Bete Grise Wetlands Preserve, MI © Jason Whalen/Big Foot Media; Visitors Enjoying Copper Harbor, MI © Michael George 2023; Kayakers at Isle Royale National Park, MI © Mark Godfrey/TNC



Payment & Cancellation Terms

All payment requests will be sent through Square. This may include the deposit, final payment, and any supplemental amounts for pre/post nights or extra transfers. If you need to cancel, please contact Iconic Adventures via concierge@iconicadventures.com.

Deposit:

- A \$1,500 per person deposit is due at the time of registration.
 - Cancellation 0-7 days after payment (when booked 7+ days before full payment is due): Deposit is fully refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
 - Cancellation 8-21 days after payment (when booked 8-21 days before full payment is due): Deposit is 50% refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
 - Cancellation 22+ days after payment: Deposit is non-refundable.

Full Trip Payment:

- Full trip payment is due 150 days prior to trip start.
 - Cancellation 150-136 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is 50% refundable, less the credit card processing fee.
 - Cancellation 135-0 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is non-refundable.

Contact Information

As you plan for your journey with The Nature Conservancy and Iconic Adventures, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

TNC Legacy Journeys Team

legacyjourneys@tnc.org

317-829-1873

Iconic Adventures Team

concierge@iconicadventures.com

877-706-4266

TNC Travel Values

● Access

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, on-the-ground experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll see how you are helping save them.

● Impact

Witness how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference in the wild places and communities you are impacting.

● Knowledge

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

● Inspiration

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

● Globally Minded

Elevate your understanding of our work by observing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

Photo: Davis Mountain Preserve, TX © Jerod Foster



TNC Traveler Expectations

Group travel with The Nature Conservancy provides our donors with the opportunity to experience, alongside fellow supporters, the places TNC is working collaboratively to advance our conservation mission. Within these curated trips is the chance to engage with a community of active individuals and conservation staff who enjoy teaching and learning about the important conservation work we do and exploring the outdoors.

In order to ensure an enjoyable trip environment that supports learning and enrichment, we need your partnership. We ask that all participants review TNC's Code of Conduct prior to joining a trip. We also encourage you to carefully review all trip information to make an informed decision as to whether travel with TNC and a specific trip's characteristics and activities are right for you. Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. To that end, by registering for a TNC trip, you agree to uphold the Code.

While the entire Code of Conduct is important, the tenets that are especially relevant to TNC group travel are:

- respect for each other,
- respect for the world around us, and
- acting with integrity.

The following traveler expectations are intended to provide guidance for how those tenets translate to group travel but are by no means an exhaustive list. By participating in a TNC trip, you make a commitment to act in accordance with the TNC Code of Conduct to your fellow travelers, as well as to TNC staff, partners, community members and vendors. Any violation of or disregard for the Code of Conduct may result in removal from a trip and/or denial of future TNC travel participation.

TNC Traveler Expectations (cont.)

● **Respect all people, places and perspectives.**

Each participant on a trip is an integral part of the travel experience. Demonstrating respect and consideration is imperative not only for nature, local communities and cultures in the places we visit, but also for fellow travelers, staff, partners, community members and vendors. Everyone will bring different goals, backgrounds, experiences and abilities, and it is important that the group respect each individual's perspectives and needs throughout the trip. Sometimes trip participants become lifelong friends, and we encourage the camaraderie and community built through these shared experiences!

● **Harassment in all its forms, including discrimination and microaggressions, is not tolerated.**

There is no place on any TNC travel experience for disrespect to or bullying or intimidation of fellow travelers, TNC staff, partners, community members or vendors. All travelers agree to support an environment free from any behavior that could make an individual feel unsafe or diminish their dignity. If you experience or observe this type of behavior on a trip, please report it to your trip host or guide.

Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited, to:

- Racial discrimination in any form (jokes, comments and/or actions)
- Verbal abuse of any traveler, staff, partner, community member or vendor
- Actions or statements that exclude or divide people because of their differences or differing perspectives
- Jokes about gender or sexual orientation or that include sexual innuendo
- Discriminatory actions or statements based on gender or sexual orientation
- Unwelcome physical contact or physical intimidation of a sexual nature

● **Act in accordance with the applicable law of the location(s) of the trip.**

Your trip location(s) may have different laws from your home location. You are expected to be aware of and adhere to the trip destination's laws throughout the experience, even when locations change throughout a trip.

● **Employ an attitude of flexibility.**

At times, there may be changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable for the comfort and well-being of trip members. We appreciate your understanding, flexibility and adaptability in order to make the trip safe and enjoyable for you and everyone else.

TNC and its tour operators reserve the right to deny registration or remove a tour participant from a trip should such person's behavior, health or mental condition impact the safe and equitable operation of the trip.

Thank you for your attention and understanding, and please let a TNC travel representative know if you have any questions in advance of registering at legacyjourneys@tnc.org.

