

Lake Huron's Northern Shores

October 1-6, 2017

On this excursion, we will visit many interesting places in the northern reaches of Lake Huron. The United States and Canada share a common landform in the Niagara Escarpment. Drummond, St. Joseph, Manitoulin and other smaller Islands are all a part of this landform. On these islands are found interesting plant communities, unique rock formations, and attractive shorelines with clear blue waters. We will also walk upon the ancient rock outcroppings of the Canadian Shield when we visit Killarney Provincial Park. The La Cloche Mountains here prominently display domes of unusual white quartzite. Maple, birch and aspen trees should provide good color at this time of year. Local Ojibway First Nation culture is a part of the experience when visiting Manitoulin Island.



Killarney Provincial Park

Sunday, October 1..... Departure from the nature center will be at 8 a.m. for the drive to Tobermory, Ontario. We should arrive by 5 p.m. Our overnight stay will be at the Princess Hotel located in the heart of the village's tourist district.

Monday, October 2..... Ferry to Manitoulin Island & Misery Bay Provincial Park

This morning we will cross over to Manitoulin Island from the tip of the Bruce Peninsula on the famous car ferry known as the Chi-Cheeman ("Big Canoe"). During the two-hour crossing you will enjoy the blue waters and islands of Lake Huron. After leaving the ferry we will make our way over to Misery Bay Provincial Park where we will have lunch and do some exploring on mostly gentle terrain. This park contains some of the most interesting alvar pavement areas found anywhere. The large open dolomite rock plains contain many rare plants and is visually interesting with glacial boulders and large deep cracks (grykes) being found here. There is a mix of forest, pavement and beach shoreline. Our overnight stay will be at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Center in the community of Little Current. We will be lodging here for a total of three nights.



Alvar Limestone

Tuesday, October 3..... Killarney Provincial Park

A highlight of the trip will be today's boat excursion up the Baie Fine fjord of Killarney Provincial Park. Known as the "crown jewel" of Ontario's park system, Killarney features rugged hills of exposed rock known as quartzite and many glacially carved lakes. The rock appears snow white on sunny days. In the fjord quartzite is exposed down to the water's edge. Wind-warped pines growing out of the rock crevices create a unique landscape. The turnaround point at the end of the fjord is called "the pool". It is a very narrow part where the

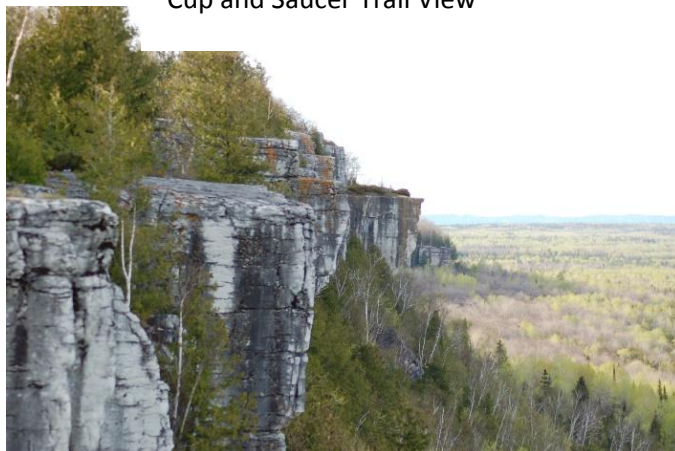
rock walls close in and you get the feeling of having been immersed in the surroundings. Those interested will have an opportunity to do a short, moderately rated hike from the pool area into Topaz Lake. This deep lake is very scenic, featuring steep quartzite cliffs and clear water. North Channel Cruise lines based in Little Current will facilitate us in this excursion with their large cruise boat. It features a fully closed-in sitting area, upper outdoor deck, lower outdoor deck and restroom. There will be plenty of room since our group will be the only passengers on board. Snacks, drinks, and a buffet lunch are included in the outing. This will be an all-day affair. We will have our second overnight at the Manitoulin Island Hotel.

Wednesday, October 4.....Cup and Saucer Trail - Ojibwe

Cultural Center

This morning there will be a walk on the Cup and Saucer Trail System. This trail system allows the visitor to explore higher parts of the Niagara Escarpment. The main trail is rated as moderate on some stretches and easy on others. There are two steep stair sections. Fabulous views of forest with autumn leaf color reward the hiker from the edge of the cliff. The walk to the famous east lookout is a three-mile round trip. After lunch we will pay a visit to the nearby Ojibwe Cultural Foundation at the village of M'Chigeeng. The museum there has many examples of First Nation exquisite craft work including porcupine quill boxes, antler carvings, and ash and sweetgrass baskets. Through various exhibits you will learn about the culture, history and traditions of the local First Nations people. There will be one more nights' stay at the Manitoulin Hotel.

Cup and Saucer Trail View



Thursday, October 5.....Maxton Plains on Drummond Island

After check out from the hotel we will make the drive to Drummond Island via the Trans-Canada Highway and the border at Sault Ste. Marie. Once on the island there will be time to explore the twelve hundred acre Maxton Plains Preserve. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages this preserve which is composed of rare alvar plant communities, northern forest, great lakes marsh, and limestone pavement shoreline. It is popular with star gazers because of the remote location and open sky views. Our overnight accommodation will be at the Drummond Island Lodge.

Friday, October 6.....William B. Derby Preserve and the Drive Home

On the way back to Sarett Nature Center a stop will be made at the William B. Derby Preserve which is located between Detour Village and St. Ignace. This natural area features old growth cedar forest, boulder gardens, and Lake Huron shoreline. There will be a restaurant stop for lunch during the day. We should arrive back at the nature center by 6 p.m. at the latest.

Accommodations:

The Princess Hotel in Tobermory- This is a hotel located in the tourist area of the village by Little Tub Harbor. It features standard amenities, a continental breakfast, locally made cedar furniture, and has an on-site restaurant.

The Manitoulin Hotel in Little Current- This place features walking trails to the downtown area of Little Current, traditional first nation motif décor, and has a dining area with fine views of Killarney Provincial Park.

Drummond Island Resort on Drummond Island- A north woods motif permeates the guest rooms and main lodge. The main lodge building offers all guests use of sitting areas where they may gather for visiting or to play games.

For eating they offer the best of both worlds with an on-site fine dining restaurant and a bar and grill featuring sandwiches and a selection of less expensive entrees. There are forest walking trails and a sauna.

Membership: You must be a current member to go on this trip. (Family membership costs 50.00, individual membership is \$40.00)

Cost: \$ 1,100.00 This includes the following:

- *Round trip van transportation
- *All ferry fees
- *Baie Fine Fjord boat excursion including all food on board
- *Five night's accommodation
- *Services of Sarett Nature Center guides
- *Two picnic lunches and one continental breakfast
- *Park Fees



Deposit: You must pay a deposit of \$200.00 to sign up for this trip. This deposit is non-refundable. We prefer that you pay by check. Please make your check out to Sarett Nature Center and mail to: Sarett Nature Center 2300 Benton Center Rd. Benton Harbor MI 49022.

Final Payment: This is due by September 1, 2017.

Cancellation Policy: Every attempt will be made to refund any recoverable costs if you must cancel.

Meals: You are responsible for all food not listed in the cost of the trip.

Border Crossing Documents: You must have a current passport or enhanced driver's license. The passport must be current six months after the return date of the trip.

Currency: Canadian businesses will not give you any exchange on US currency. It is better to obtain Canadian currency at an ATM using your debit card.

Group Size: A total of sixteen people will make up our group. This includes two leaders.

Responsibility: Sarett Nature Center reserves the right, at their sole discretion, to make changes in the itinerary and hotels should that become responsible to any person for or happenings resulting from Sarett Nature Center reserve retain any person as a responsible for any losses or injuries, expenses, or by any tour member.



Islands near Killarney

necessary, and is not expenses, loss of time, money, a change of tour scheduling. the right to accept, decline, or member of the tour, and is not damages of personal property, damages incurred or claimed

