

# CIRCLE LAKE SUPERIOR

A fall foliage tour all around the world's largest lake!  
September 30, 2020 - 15 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$5495** double/twin

**\$6925** single

**\$5045** triple



> Please add 2.1% GST.

> **Early Bookers:** \$280 discount on first 15 seats; \$140 on next 10

> **Experience Points:** Earn 120 points from this tour.

Redeem **120 points** if you book by **June 25**.

## Includes

- WestJet flight from Vancouver to Thunder Bay
- Current air transport taxes and fees
- One piece of checked luggage on WestJet
- 14 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- 12 days of coach transportation
- Transfer from Thunder Bay airport to hotel
- Fort William with lunch at Beaver Club
- Thunder Bay Museum
- Terry Fox Monument
- Canadian Bushplane Centre
- Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site
- Agawa Canyon tour train
- Cruise through the Soo Locks
- Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum
- Tahquamenon Falls Park
- Michigan local guide for 4 days
- Pictured Rocks cruise

- Lakenenland Sculpture Park
- Michigan Iron Industry Museum
- Shrine of Bishop Baraga
- Eagle Harbor Lighthouse
- Locally-guided tour of Keweenaw Peninsula
- Porcupine Mountains Park with local guide
- Apostle Islands cruise
- Locally-guided tour of Duluth
- Lake Superior Marine Museum
- Split Rock Lighthouse
- Transfer from Thunder Bay hotel to airport
- WestJet flight from Thunder Bay to Vancouver
- Gratuities for local guides, train staff, crew on boats, Lake Superior coach driver
- Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **29 meals:** 10 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 8 dinners

Kamloops > 250-374-0831  
Kelowna > 250-762-3435  
[www.wellsgraytours.com](http://www.wellsgraytours.com)

Penticton > 250-493-1255  
Vernon > 250-545-9197  
**Toll Free** > **800-667-9552**



## Lake Superior

Lake Superior has some amazing statistics. It is the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area and the third largest freshwater lake by volume (after Lake Baikal in Siberia and Lake Tanganyika in East Africa). From Duluth to Sault Ste. Marie, it is 560 km long, and has a maximum width of 260 km. It is shared by Ontario to the north, Minnesota to the west, and Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to the south. Lake Superior has the highest surface elevation of all the Great Lakes chain at 183 metres. The lake's drainage basin is 128,000 sq km and about 200 streams feed into it. Water takes up to 191 years to pass through the lake, then it drains into the St. Mary's River leading to Lake Huron. Lake Superior's deepest point is in the southeast off the Michigan shore where it reaches 406 metres.

The Ojibwe name for the lake is gichi-gami meaning "great sea". Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the name as "Gitche Gumee" in *The Song of Hiawatha*, as did Gordon Lightfoot in his song, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*. The first French explorers approaching this great inland sea by way of the Ottawa River and Lake Huron during the 17<sup>th</sup> century referred to their discovery as *le lac supérieur*. Properly translated, the expression means "Upper Lake," meaning the lake above Lake Huron. The lake was also called Lac Tracy by 17<sup>th</sup> century Jesuit missionaries, referring to Marquis Alexandre de Prouville de Tracy, acting governor of New France in 1665. The British took control of the region from the French in the 1760s following the French and Indian War, and anglicized the lake's name to Superior, "on account of its being superior in magnitude to any of the lakes on that vast continent".

Lake Superior has been an important link in the Great Lakes Waterway, providing a route for the transportation of iron ore, grain and many other materials. Large cargo vessels called lake freighters or lakers and smaller ocean-going freighters carry these commodities across Lake Superior. Shipping was slow to arrive at Lake Superior in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first steamboat was the *Independence* which started service in 1847 whereas the other Great Lakes had the first steamers in 1816. Because of ice, the lake is closed to shipping from mid-January to late March.

The south shore of Lake Superior between Grand Marais and Whitefish Point is known as the "Graveyard of the Great Lakes" and more ships have been lost there than any other part of Lake Superior. Storms that claimed multiple ships include the Mataafa Storm in 1905 and the Great Lakes Storm of 1913. There are 550 shipwrecks in Lake Superior, the best known being *Edmund Fitzgerald* in 1975.

The larger cities on Lake Superior include the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Marquette and Munising, Michigan; and the twin cities of Sault Ste. Marie in Ontario and Michigan. Duluth-Superior is the westernmost point on the Great Lakes Waterway and St. Lawrence Seaway, and the most inland port in the world at 3,700 km from the ocean.

Lake Superior has over 400 islands, the largest being Isle Royale in Michigan. It contains several lakes, some of which also contain islands. Other islands include Madeline Island and the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin, Michipicoten Island in Ontario, and Grand Island in Michigan.

Among the scenic places on the lake are Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Isle Royale National Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, Pukaskwa National Park, Lake Superior Provincial Park, Grand Island National Recreation Area, and Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. This tour is timed for the fabulous colours of fall foliage around the lake, and the Agawa Canyon all-day train excursion is one of the best ways to experience this phenomenon.

Lake Superior's shoreline is 2,783 km plus 1,605 km for the islands. This itinerary circles the lake clockwise, departing from Thunder Bay and returning there 12 days later. Since the highways are straighter than the shoreline, our journey is about 2,000 km (plus side trips). Come and enjoy this unique tour as we explore the many wonders of Lake Superior.

## Activity Level



Moderate activity including short distances to walk at some of the attractions. This tour is not suitable for people who depend on walkers or have mobility challenges with a flight of stairs. There can be longer walks in the airports; request a cart or wheelchair in advance or at check-in if this could be an issue for you. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, local guides, and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

## Itinerary

**Wednesday, September 30:** Meals: D  
We fly on WestJet this afternoon from Vancouver to Calgary, and stay overnight at the Marriott Hotel in the terminal. A get-acquainted dinner is planned.

### Thursday, October 1:

Back on WestJet, we fly from Calgary to Winnipeg and change planes to continue to **Thunder Bay**, arriving about 4 pm Eastern Time. Our driver and coach meet us at the airport. We stay two nights at the beautiful new Delta Hotel on the shore of **Lake Superior**, our first glimpse of the mighty lake that will be our focus for the next 12 days.

### Friday, October 2:

Meals: L

This morning, we go to **Fort William** which was an important fur trading post at the mouth of the Kaministiquia River. Established in 1684, it had a strategic location on the Grand Portage used by fur traders heading to and from western Canada. Today's fort is a replica of its appearance in 1816 with costumed interpreters. At lunch, we attend a re-creation of the exclusive Northwest Fur Company's **Beaver Club** which operated in Montreal from 1685 to 1824. The five traditional Beaver Club toasts are offered, and Northwest characters regale us with tales of the fur trade and other anecdotes. During the afternoon, we visit the Thunder Bay Museum which has six galleries about local and Northwestern Ontario heritage; the **Terry Fox Monument** commemorating his Marathon of Hope that ended near this spot in 1980; and 40-metre high Kakabeka Falls.

### Saturday, October 3:

Meals: L,D

Today's drive is along the rugged north shore of Lake Superior. Stops are made at the famous **Wawa goose** statue, and several roadside viewpoints of the lake. This long drive is unavoidable as there are only a few modest motels and limited services along the 700 km from Thunder Bay to Sault Ste Marie. The next three nights are at the Delta Hotel in **Sault Ste Marie** which overlooks the rapids of the St. Mary's River between Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

### Sunday, October 4:

Meals: B,L,D

The **Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre** is dedicated to preserving the history of bush flying and forest protection. The huge hangar contains about 30 float planes, bush planes, and water-bombers, plus forest fire fighting equipment. Across the street is the Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site. The Old Stone House was built by fur trader Charles Ermatinger about 1814 and may be the oldest house northwest of Toronto.

**Monday, October 5:** Meals: B,L  
Today is devoted to the **Agawa Canyon train trip**. This all-day excursion into the wilderness of the Canadian Shield is often called the most scenic rail journey in eastern Canada. From the "Soo", we wind north past numerous clear lakes, rushing rivers, and narrow gorges. The trestle at Montreal River is a highlight. At Agawa Canyon, there's a two-hour stop to explore the area and view several waterfalls. The brilliant reds and yellows of Ontario's fall foliage season should be underway by now (but cannot be guaranteed), and this makes the train tour especially memorable. A box lunch is provided on board.

### Tuesday, October 6:

Meals: B,L,D

We cross the border to Sault Ste Marie in Michigan via the 4.5 km long International Bridge which crosses the St. Mary's River and the **Soo Locks**. We take a cruise through the locks which lift ships 6.4 metres from Lake Huron to Lake Superior. About 10,000 ships pass through the locks each year and perhaps we can see one of the giant "lakers". We travel up through the American locks which handle the big vessels, and down in the smaller Canadian locks. Lunch is at the unique and homey Antlers Restaurant. Our Michigan guide meets us here and is with us for the next four days to provide local colour and stories about the Upper Peninsula. At Whitefish Point, we explore the multiple buildings and lighthouse of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. It contains many exhibits and artifacts about the hazards faced by many captains over the last two centuries. The laker **SS Edmund Fitzgerald** sank 28 km north of here in a violent storm in November 1975, and has been immortalized in Gordon Lightfoot's ballad. We stay overnight in the tiny village of Paradise at the Magnuson Grand Hotel where every room overlooks Lake Superior.

### Wednesday, October 7:

Meals: B,L,D

Our first stop is **Tahquamenon Falls** where the river plunges 15 metres. Lunch is in Munising on the south shore of Lake Superior. The town is a busy place in summer because it is the gateway to **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore** which protects many miles of vividly coloured bluffs rising straight out of the lake. This afternoon, we take a cruise along these cliffs and admire the unique geological formations including a natural bridge. We stay overnight at the Holiday Inn Express in Munising.

**Thursday, October 8:**

Meals: B,L,D

Highway 28, the primary route along **Michigan's Upper Peninsula**, meanders along the south shore of Lake Superior. We stop at Lakenenland Sculpture Park where a local resident displays his huge collection of weird sculptures made from scrap iron. The largest city of the Upper Peninsula is **Marquette** with only 21,000 residents which suggests how rural this region is. Our Michigan guide lives here and conducts a driving and walking tour of the historic downtown. This region is noted for huge deposits of iron ore, and the mining industry has been active here since 1847. Marquette developed as a major port for shipping iron ore and the industry grew rapidly after 1855 when the first Soo Locks opened. The **Michigan Iron Industry Museum** has exhibits about this vital part of the local economy. Continuing west, we visit the **Shrine of Bishop Baraga** which memorializes the first bishop of the Upper Peninsula who came here as a missionary from Slovenia in 1830. We stay two nights in Houghton on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

**Friday, October 9:**

Meals: B,L

The **Keweenaw Peninsula** juts into Lake Superior and we spend the day touring its attractions to the very tip. The lake controls the weather, especially in winter with incredible snowfalls, and we stop at the Snow-mometer where the scale goes to 390 inches (10 metres) that fell in 1978. We also visit the Jampot Bakery, Jacob's Falls, and Eagle Harbor Lighthouse, built in 1871. We enjoy the scenic drive along the top of **Brockway Mountain** which offers panoramic views over Lake Superior with fabulous fall colours. Lunch is at Keweenaw Mountain Lodge in Copper Harbor at the tip of the peninsula. This afternoon, we visit Keweenaw National Historic Park which protects a lava flow of nearly pure copper, and there are exhibits about the copper mining industry.

**Saturday, October 10:**

Meals: B,L

The morning is devoted to **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Park**, highlighted by the Lake of the Clouds Overlook. Lunch is in Silver City on the shore of Lake Superior. After entering Wisconsin, we stay overnight in **Ashland** at the Super 8.

**Sunday, October 11:**

Meals: B,L

The **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore** lies north of Ashland and is the "crown jewel" of Wisconsin's Lake Superior shoreline. There are 22 islands in the group, many with reddish cliffs. Our three-hour cruise of the islands passes two lighthouses, a brownstone quarry site, and a historic fishing camp, and circles around Devils Island to view the spectacular sea caves. This afternoon, we drive west to Duluth, Minnesota, and stay two nights at Inn on Lake Superior.

**Monday, October 12:**

Meals: B,D

**Duluth** is located at the westernmost point of the Great Lakes, 3,700 km from the Atlantic Ocean via the Great Lakes Waterway and the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is the second largest city on Lake Superior after Thunder Bay. A local guide conducts a two-hour tour of Duluth highlights, and we also visit the Lake Superior Marine Museum, overlooking the entrance to the busy harbour.

**Tuesday, October 13:**

Meals: B,L,D

On the last leg of our journey around Lake Superior, we follow the northwest shoreline. We stop at **Split Rock Lighthouse**, one of the most picturesque lighthouses in the USA. Built in 1910 and retired in 1969, it perches on a cliff-top, 41 metres above the lake. Its fame is due to a US postage stamp in 1995, the 2013 film *The Great Gatsby*, and numerous art works. We cross the border at Grand Portage and return to **Thunder Bay** for our last night at the Delta Hotel. A farewell dinner is planned.

**Wednesday, October 14:**

We fly on WestJet via Winnipeg and Calgary to Vancouver.



## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due June 25, 2020. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$280 discount on first 15 seats and \$140 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after June 25.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to May 25, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From May 26 to June 25, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From June 26 to July 24, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From July 25 to August 25, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After August 25, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the airline, train, cruise vessels and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Home pickups** are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Please request no later than at final payment.

**Photo Credit:** Pictured Rocks Cruises

**E-points:** This tour earns 120 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until June 25.

**Consumer Protection BC licences:** Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842