



Yoopers Silver Trail Caravan 2027

Picture this: You and your Airstream escape the Texas heat in mid-September, traveling 1300 miles north to Michigan. Suddenly, you're swapping sweaty brows for cool breezes, golden leaves, and lake views so breathtaking you'll think you've stepped into a postcard. Say goodbye to the Texas heat and hello to sweater weather—perfect for adventures galore!

The Mitten (that's Northern Lower Michigan if you squint at a map!) is a September wonderland filled with gems like Traverse City, Petoskey, Mackinaw City, the Leelanau Peninsula, Sleeping Bear Dunes, and the Tunnel of Trees.

- The caravan starts in the charming village of **Suttons Bay**, an ideal spot on the eastern shore of the Leelanau Peninsula to gather the group. From Suttons Bay, point your compass for day trips along the Leelanau Peninsula—think M-22's stunning lake views, sunlit vineyards, and inviting little towns just waiting to be explored.
- Leland: Imagine traveling back in time to historic Fishtown, where weathered shanties and salty air make you feel like you've stepped into a lakeside legend.
- Northport: Climb to the top of the Grand Traverse Lighthouse, then spread out for a picnic in Leelanau State Park.
- Traverse City: Take a guided walking tour, visit The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, enjoy boat tours on Grand Traverse Bay, and rent bikes for a leisurely ride around town.
- Old Mission Peninsula: Drive down scenic M-37, sip some local vino, snap a selfie at Mission Point Lighthouse, and see how many apples you can fit in your bag at the orchards
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore serves up epic Lake Michigan vistas and a biking trail so fun you might want to pedal backward just to see it all again.
- Glen Haven Historic Village lets you channel your inner time-traveler: watch a blacksmith hammer away, peek inside the old Cannery and Boat Museum, and snap a picture at the Coast Guard Station—nostalgia guaranteed. Fun Fact: Trimble volunteered here.



Next stop: **Indian River**, where crystal-clear waters wind through lush woods, sandy beaches, and marshes. Day trips here are a choose-your-own-adventure of rivers, history, beaches, and quirky small-town magic.

- Cheboygan: Discover the scenic Inland Waterways and visit the historic Cheboygan Crib Lighthouse.
- Mackinaw City is a treasure trove of cool attractions: wander through Colonial Michilimackinac (history comes alive!), marvel at the impressive Mackinaw Bridge, and explore the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum—a ship so tough, it laughs at winter.
- Mackinac Island is pure magic—home to world-famous fudge, the impossibly grand Grand Hotel, clip-clopping carriage rides, and scenic bike paths that make you feel like you're in your own movie montage.

- Petoskey: Meander through the twinkling Gaslight District, then hit the beach for a Petoskey stone treasure hunt—finders keepers!
- Charlevoix is pure Michigan magic—quirky Mushroom Houses, a fairytale castle, and sparkling lake views all in one downtown!

Crossing the Mackinac Bridge is unforgettable! From Mackinaw City to the wild Upper Peninsula, you'll drive above sparkling blue waters on one of the world's longest suspension bridges.

Fun Fact: Lower Michigan: Lower Peninsula "Trolls" as a "under" (or south of) the



Yoopers call residents of the playful jab because they live mighty Mackinac Bridge.

The Upper Peninsula: The "U.P.-ers" that highlights amid forests, lakes, and

Yoopers. A humorous take on their rugged, independent spirit heavy snow.

- Sault Ste. Marie is Michigan's oldest city, where river rapids blend history with adventure!
- Watch giant freighters glide by from the campground—a slow-motion parade!
- Soo Locks: watch ships and learn history at this busy lock system and visitor center.
- Hop on a Soo Locks Boat Tour for a front-row seat to all the excitement! Narrated cruises take you right into the heart of the locks.
- Explore the Museum Ship Valley Camp, a 550-foot freighter packed with shipping history and shipwreck tales.
- For the best view in town, take the Tower of History's express elevator—you'll feel on top of the world! Enjoy 360-degree views of locks, rivers, ships, twin cities (U.S. and Canadian!), and the endless wilderness beyond.
- Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre: Experience hands-on history with legendary planes and bush flying stories!
- Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site: stroll scenic trails and view heritage buildings.
- Big Ben Double Decker Bus Tour: ride, laugh, and hop off to explore downtown Sault Ste. Marie.
- A day trip from Sault Ste. Marie, MI, to Whitefish Point is well-known as part of the "Graveyard of the Great Lakes" or "Shipwreck Coast," where nearly 200 shipwrecks are documented due to dangerous storms, fog, and rocky hazards. The area features a historic lighthouse and the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum. The round-trip distance is approximately 150-180 miles, with 4-5 hours of driving (plus stops), making it feasible to complete in a single long day.

Munising, MI, offers three days of stunning drives along Lake Superior's rugged shoreline, vibrant cliffs, lush forests, and thundering waterfalls.

- While heading to Munising, stop at MI Dogs for a 1.5-hour tour with experienced musher Laura, a veteran of the Iditarod and Yukon Quest. Interact with her lively Alaskan huskies, get puppy kisses, and hear captivating trail tales. Then, relax with a picnic at the stunning Tahquamenon Falls, one of the area's top natural attractions.
- Take a Pictured Rocks Boat Tour to experience stunning cliffs, colorful sandstone formations, waterfalls, and caves along Lake Superior's shoreline.

- Take a day trip to Kitch-iti-kipi, Michigan's largest spring. Over 10,000 gallons per minute gush from limestone fissures into this emerald-green, 45°F pool—viewed from a self-guided observation raft.

In September, Marquette glows with fall color and lively downtown buzz. Three days here mean crisp air, lakeshore calm, and vibrant energy.

- Hike Presque Isle Park or Sugarloaf Mountain for fiery fall foliage set against Lake Superior's blue expanse.
- Presque Isle Park: dramatic cliffs, rocky coves, and easy trails with sweeping views.
- September kicks off Lake Superior's fall fishing runs as salmon and trout surge nearshore.
- Lakenenland Sculpture Park: stroll among quirky, free metal sculptures scattered through the woods.
- Tour Marquette's Lighthouse and Maritime Museum, wander historic downtown, and see the iconic Ore Docks.

Finally, Ontonagon delivers authentic small-town charm without the crowds.

- It's the perfect base for exploring the Porcupine Mountains ("the Porkies")—Michigan's largest state park. In September, hike old-growth forests, chase waterfalls, and soak up top-tier fall color at Lake of the Clouds, Presque Isle River Waterfalls, Summit Peak Tower, and Escarpment Trail.
- Take a day trip along Black River Scenic Byway: climb Copper Peak, chase five waterfalls, picnic at Black Harbor, and savor pasties near Bessemer and Ironwood.
- Our campground is situated directly across from Lake Superior and the entrance to the State park. Walk along the lakeshore in search of the glowing fluorescent Yooper rocks. Our caravan finale will be at The Squeeze On Main, a local favorite for its delicious food, friendly service, and emphasis on local culture with fresh, UP-sourced ingredients.