

# ABLAZE, AMAZING & ASTONISHING NORTHERN MICHIGAN



International Fireworks Championship,  
Thunder Bay, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Traverse City, Charlevoix

**SEPTEMBER 9 - 12, 2026** (4 days)

**Day 1:** Traveling to Northern Michigan. Visit **Our Lady of the Woods Shrine** in Mio, MI. Walk the gardens on the beautifully landscaped grounds and visit the Shrine honoring Mary and depicting her apparitions. A stop at the **Fairview Organic Maple Sugar Farm** in Comins, MI. Take a stroll through the Sugar Bush and see the original Sugar Shack built in early 1900's by the Amish family who settled the land. Learn about the modern techniques the Boonstra use to tap over 2,500 Maple Trees. A



scenic drive to Hillman, MI and the **Thunder Bay Resort**. An unforgettable evening awaits, starting with **Elk Viewing Carriage Ride** to Elk Antler Log for a most delightful **five course Dinner and Wine Tasting**. Our horse Drawn carriage takes you over the Thunder Bay River and into the woods. Enjoy the scenery, the smell of pine and experience the Northern Elk in their natural habitat. Maybe hear them Bugling. The horses make their way deep in the woods to the beautiful **Elk Antler Log Cabin** for a dinner you won't soon forget. **Day 2:** Visit **Castle Farms with Lunch** in Charlevoix MI. Enjoy a **tram tour** of the



picturesque grounds and a walking tour through buildings that highlights the grandeur of the French Chateaux styled buildings. Hear the rich history of Castle Farms, from its original construction 1918 as the Loeb Farm, to the Van Haver art studio and gallery period, as well as the music concert era, and through the extensive restoration from 2001 to present. Tour of **Charlevoix**. This picturesque city is located on three bodies of water: Lake Michigan, Lake Charlevoix, and Round Lake. Your local guide will show you the architectural diversity of this lovely city. Highlighted are the more than thirty homes designed by local architect Earl Young. Dating from 1921 to the 1950's, these unique, "**mushroom houses**" are built out of native stone and sport cedar shake roofs. Traveling to **The Music House Museum**, a unique collection of instruments that provide guests with a walk through the history, artistry, and engineering of automated music. The collection spans from the late 18th century to 1950, going from simple music boxes to early recorded sound and radio. It showcases the beauty of the craftsmanship, the history of the era and the complexity of the engineering of the collection as well as allowing us to hear many of the rare instruments on display. **Harringtons by the Bay** in Traverse City for dinner before entertainment at the **City Opera House**. Often called the "Grand Old Lady," it is a beautifully restored Victorian architectural gem that has served as a cultural cornerstone for the Grand Traverse region since its opening in 1892. As one of only a handful of historically intact Victorian opera houses remaining in



Michigan. **Day 3:** Tour **Pierce Stocking Drive**, a 7.2-mile scenic route within **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore** through forest & dune areas. World-class vistas will give you a view of Michigan that is simply spectacular! It is no wonder that Good Morning America's viewers voted Sleeping Bear Dunes "The Most Beautiful Place in America." Lunch on your own in Downtown Traverse City. Embark on a two-hour narrated journey along the stunning waters of West Bay in Grand Traverse Bay aboard **The Discovery**. Cruise the Beautiful shoreline with views of waterfront mansions, historic lighthouses, and the cityscape. The experienced crew provides an engaging commentary, highlighting the history, maritime lore, and ecological significance of the region. **The Village at Grand Traverse Commons** for a fascinating tour of the complex's past as the Traverse City State Hospital. Learn about the revolutionary Kirkbride Plan architecture—specifically Building 50, which embraced the philosophy of "Beauty is Therapy"—and the evolution of patient care from the late 19th century to its closure. Explore on your own at the **Mercato**. The Mercato, Italian for "market" serves as a bustling indoor marketplace. This vibrant corridor is a testament to the complex's adaptive reuse. Within the beautifully preserved Victorian-Italianate architecture, the Mercato houses an eclectic collection of independent businesses, including boutique shops, art galleries, unique restaurants, and more. Tonight, the skies come alive at the **International Fireworks Championship**. A spectacular evening of world-class pyrotechnic displays. Held at Turtle Creek Stadium, it will feature a lineup of elite teams from across the globe competing for fireworks supremacy, with each team creating a dazzling "pyro musical" show choreographed perfectly to music. The championship promises to deliver unforgettable artistry and technical brilliance in the sky. Enjoy dinner on your own at the Ballpark. **Day 4:** Tram tour of the outside gardens at **Frederick Meijer Gardens**. This year a **spectacular exhibition of world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's** work. The exhibition will transform both the outdoor gardens and indoor galleries, featuring monumental glass sculptures, vibrant "Reeds," and other breathtaking, site-specific installations that will harmoniously blend art with nature. Indoors, guests will explore over 40 years of Chihuly's creative journey, including his celebrated series such as Baskets, Macchia, Sea forms, and Persians, alongside original drawings that offer insight into his artistic process and inspiration. A box lunch is included. Time to explore The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees.

**Day 3:** Tour **Pierce Stocking Drive**, a 7.2-mile scenic route within **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore** through forest & dune areas. World-class vistas will give you a view of Michigan that is simply spectacular! It is no wonder that Good Morning America's viewers voted Sleeping Bear Dunes "The Most Beautiful Place in America." Lunch on your own in Downtown Traverse City. Embark on a two-hour narrated journey along the stunning waters of West Bay in Grand Traverse Bay aboard **The Discovery**. Cruise the Beautiful shoreline with views of waterfront mansions, historic lighthouses, and the cityscape. The experienced crew provides an engaging commentary, highlighting the history, maritime lore, and ecological significance of the region. **The Village at Grand Traverse Commons** for a fascinating tour of the complex's past as the Traverse City State Hospital. Learn about the revolutionary Kirkbride Plan architecture—specifically Building 50, which embraced the philosophy of "Beauty is Therapy"—and the evolution of patient care from the late 19th century to its closure. Explore on your own at the **Mercato**. The Mercato, Italian for "market" serves as a bustling indoor marketplace. This vibrant corridor is a testament to the complex's adaptive reuse. Within the beautifully preserved Victorian-Italianate architecture, the Mercato houses an eclectic collection of independent businesses, including boutique shops, art galleries, unique restaurants, and more. Tonight, the skies come alive at the **International Fireworks Championship**. A spectacular evening of world-class pyrotechnic displays. Held at Turtle Creek Stadium, it will feature a lineup of elite teams from across the globe competing for fireworks supremacy, with each team creating a dazzling "pyro musical" show choreographed perfectly to music. The championship promises to deliver unforgettable artistry and technical brilliance in the sky. Enjoy dinner on your own at the Ballpark. **Day 4:** Tram tour of the outside gardens at **Frederick Meijer Gardens**. This year a **spectacular exhibition of world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's** work. The exhibition will transform both the outdoor gardens and indoor galleries, featuring monumental glass sculptures, vibrant "Reeds," and other breathtaking, site-specific installations that will harmoniously blend art with nature. Indoors, guests will explore over 40 years of Chihuly's creative journey, including his celebrated series such as Baskets, Macchia, Sea forms, and Persians, alongside original drawings that offer insight into his artistic process and inspiration. A box lunch is included. Time to explore The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees.

Cruise the Beautiful shoreline with views of waterfront mansions, historic lighthouses, and the cityscape. The experienced crew provides an engaging commentary, highlighting the history, maritime lore, and ecological significance of the region. **The Village at Grand Traverse Commons** for a fascinating tour of the complex's past as the Traverse City State Hospital. Learn about the revolutionary Kirkbride Plan architecture—specifically Building 50, which embraced the philosophy of "Beauty is Therapy"—and the evolution of patient care from the late 19th century to its closure. Explore on your own at the **Mercato**. The Mercato, Italian for "market" serves as a bustling indoor marketplace. This vibrant corridor is a testament to the complex's adaptive reuse. Within the beautifully preserved Victorian-Italianate architecture, the Mercato houses an eclectic collection of independent businesses, including boutique shops, art galleries, unique restaurants, and more. Tonight, the skies come alive at the **International Fireworks Championship**. A spectacular evening of world-class pyrotechnic displays. Held at Turtle Creek Stadium, it will feature a lineup of elite teams from across the globe competing for fireworks supremacy, with each team creating a dazzling "pyro musical" show choreographed perfectly to music. The championship promises to deliver unforgettable artistry and technical brilliance in the sky. Enjoy dinner on your own at the Ballpark. **Day 4:** Tram tour of the outside gardens at **Frederick Meijer Gardens**. This year a **spectacular exhibition of world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's** work. The exhibition will transform both the outdoor gardens and indoor galleries, featuring monumental glass sculptures, vibrant "Reeds," and other breathtaking, site-specific installations that will harmoniously blend art with nature. Indoors, guests will explore over 40 years of Chihuly's creative journey, including his celebrated series such as Baskets, Macchia, Sea forms, and Persians, alongside original drawings that offer insight into his artistic process and inspiration. A box lunch is included. Time to explore The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees.



is a testament to the complex's adaptive reuse. Within the beautifully preserved Victorian-Italianate architecture, the Mercato houses an eclectic collection of independent businesses, including boutique shops, art galleries, unique restaurants, and more. Tonight, the skies come alive at the **International Fireworks Championship**. A spectacular evening of world-class pyrotechnic displays. Held at Turtle Creek Stadium, it will feature a lineup of elite teams from across the globe competing for fireworks supremacy, with each team creating a dazzling "pyro musical" show choreographed perfectly to music. The championship promises to deliver unforgettable artistry and technical brilliance in the sky. Enjoy dinner on your own at the Ballpark. **Day 4:** Tram tour of the outside gardens at **Frederick Meijer Gardens**. This year a **spectacular exhibition of world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's** work. The exhibition will transform both the outdoor gardens and indoor galleries, featuring monumental glass sculptures, vibrant "Reeds," and other breathtaking, site-specific installations that will harmoniously blend art with nature. Indoors, guests will explore over 40 years of Chihuly's creative journey, including his celebrated series such as Baskets, Macchia, Sea forms, and Persians, alongside original drawings that offer insight into his artistic process and inspiration. A box lunch is included. Time to explore The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees.

A spectacular evening of world-class pyrotechnic displays. Held at Turtle Creek Stadium, it will feature a lineup of elite teams from across the globe competing for fireworks supremacy, with each team creating a dazzling "pyro musical" show choreographed perfectly to music. The championship promises to deliver unforgettable artistry and technical brilliance in the sky. Enjoy dinner on your own at the Ballpark. **Day 4:** Tram tour of the outside gardens at **Frederick Meijer Gardens**. This year a **spectacular exhibition of world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's** work. The exhibition will transform both the outdoor gardens and indoor galleries, featuring monumental glass sculptures, vibrant "Reeds," and other breathtaking, site-specific installations that will harmoniously blend art with nature. Indoors, guests will explore over 40 years of Chihuly's creative journey, including his celebrated series such as Baskets, Macchia, Sea forms, and Persians, alongside original drawings that offer insight into his artistic process and inspiration. A box lunch is included. Time to explore The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees.

own at the Ballpark. **Day 4:** Tram tour of the outside gardens at **Frederick Meijer Gardens**. This year a **spectacular exhibition of world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's** work. The exhibition will transform both the outdoor gardens and indoor galleries, featuring monumental glass sculptures, vibrant "Reeds," and other breathtaking, site-specific installations that will harmoniously blend art with nature. Indoors, guests will explore over 40 years of Chihuly's creative journey, including his celebrated series such as Baskets, Macchia, Sea forms, and Persians, alongside original drawings that offer insight into his artistic process and inspiration. A box lunch is included. Time to explore The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees.

Indoors, guests will explore over 40 years of Chihuly's creative journey, including his celebrated series such as Baskets, Macchia, Sea forms, and Persians, alongside original drawings that offer insight into his artistic process and inspiration. A box lunch is included. Time to explore The Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, a five-story, 15,000 square-foot facility featuring rock landscapes, a waterfall and a variety of exotic plant selections. The conservatory houses tropical plants from around the world, including fig trees from India, exotic orchids from Central and South America, Asiatic bamboo and banana trees.

**Tour Includes:**

**All Attractions,  
7 Meals (3 Breakfasts, 2 Lunch, 2 Dinner),  
3 Night Quality Lodging,  
Travel via Motorcoach.**

**Departs: Ft. Wayne, Auburn, Kendallville, Middlebury**



**\$1586.** per person DOUBLE

Triple \$1533., Quad \$1513., Single \$1708.

Deposit of \$100 per person with reservation.  
Balance Due August 9, 2026.

**FREDERIK MEIJER**  
Gardens & Sculpture Park

