



GREAT LAKES & WATERFRONTS: CHICAGO TO TORONTO

Chicago • 9-night Great Lakes small ship cruise with Lake Michigan, Mackinac Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Manitoulin Island, Lake Huron, Detroit, Cleveland, Niagara Falls • Toronto

A voyage through America's five Great Lakes awaits you! On this 14-day journey, uncover innovative cities while enjoying plenty of time to admire the natural beauty of the gorgeous islands and bodies of water straddling the U.S. and Canada.

With 11 included features and Cultural Discoveries, you'll experience some of North America's best lakeside cities, regional cuisine, and indigenous history all in one unforgettable journey with Vantage. Plus, discover rock-and-roll Cleveland and see how Detroit has transformed into a brand-new, bustling city. Your journey concludes with some time in diverse Toronto. Thanks to the small size of your ship, in many ports we'll be able to dock right onshore, giving you easy access to your destination. This is almost exclusively how you will embark and disembark throughout most of your journey. However, please note that other ports may require anchoring offshore and tendering inland, which will require a certain level of agility.

You'll have the chance to enjoy all of these incredible highlights while spending 9 nights aboard the 5-star Ocean Explorer, outfitted with all the latest amenities and plenty of small-ship charm. Attend fascinating onboard lectures by our Resident Lecturer, and dine on fine cuisine while taking in panoramic views of your surroundings.

Reserve Today! Call Toll-Free **1 800 322 6677** - WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/ETC24

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

THE OCEAN EXPLORER



Cruise on the 5-star Ocean Explorer, an agile and state-of-the-art vessel that can navigate to places larger ships can't

RESIDENT LECTURER



Gain deeper insights into your destinations with talks and discussions by an onboard Resident Lecturer

CRUISING ALL 5 GREAT LAKES



Enjoy scenic cruising on all 5 Great Lakes: Ontario, Erie, Huron, Superior, and Michigan

MACKINAC ISLAND



Take a horse-drawn carriage tour of historic Mackinac Island, which remains car-free

NIAGARA FALLS



Sail into the mists on a Niagara Falls cruise aboard the *Hornblower*

SAULT STE. MARIE



Navigate the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, where you can discover the history of this region from either the U.S. or Canadian side

HENRY FORD MUSEUM



Learn about Detroit's economic industrial boom and leading innovation of automotive ideas on a tour through this interactive museum

MANTOULIN ISLAND



Discover Ojibwe tradition on Manitoulin Island, including a smudging ceremony and powwow

PANORAMIC TOUR OF TORONTO



Enjoy a half-day panoramic tour of Toronto that ensures you'll see this wonderful metropolis and its skyline in full view

YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- **Purchase your airfare from Vantage** and your airport transfers, fuel surcharges, and government taxes and fees are included
- **Accommodations for 13 nights**, with 9 nights aboard the 5-star *Ocean Explorer*, plus 2 nights in Chicago at the *Hilton Palmer House*, and 2 nights in Toronto at the *Sheraton Center*
- **32 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 11 dinners, with complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks during dinner on board
- **11 included features and Cultural Discoveries**
- **Visit 1 UNESCO World Heritage Site:** Georgian Bay
- **The services of a Vantage Cruise Director and Program Manager**, plus shipboard commentary, regional experts, and private motorcoach for excursions
- **Complimentary Destination Manager service on board** ship to assist with all your personal requests such as spa reservations, hotel reservations, and other special requests in port
- **Complimentary Vantage Deluxe Concierge Service** prior to your journey, to plan celebrations, activities, or provide regional expertise. Log into My Portfolio and submit a request, or send an email any time up to two weeks prior to your departure at Concierge@vantagetravel.com
- **Complimentary unlimited Wi-Fi**
- **Gratuities for local guides and drivers**
- **All transfers and baggage handling overseas**
- **Vantage 5% Travel Reward**, received upon your return, to use toward your next Vantage journey

SPECIAL INTEREST



UNESCO & HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Years ago, they were the simple path of a glistening glacier, but today, the Great Lakes are a proud symbol of American heritage. You'll enjoy picturesque cruising on five Great Lakes, each with their own stunning landscape, unique history, and treasured cultural gems. From the scenic shorelines of Lake Huron to the history-lined coast of Lake Michigan, you'll gain a new appreciation for the story of America. Here are just a few of the historical gems that await you:

- Embark on a sightseeing tour of Mackinac Island
- This scenic voyage gives you the opportunity to cruise on five of North America's Great Lakes
- Journey through America's past as you tour the historical highlights of Cleveland
- Delve into the fascinating past of our country as you explore the unique exhibits of the Henry Ford Museum
- Get a fascinating insider's look at the rich culture of the Indigenous Ojibwe people when you visit Manitoulin Island, the world's largest freshwater island



NATURE HIGHLIGHTS From rock and roll to indigenous culture, this Great Lakes cruise blends the old, the new, and the evergreen on a delightful 14-day itinerary. Here are some cultural highlights:

- Learn about the traditions of the Indigenous Ojibwe people on Manitoulin Island
- View Toronto's landmarks on a city tour
- Tour Detroit's Henry Ford Museum for an automobile-themed look at some of the most important moments in American history



PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

Make the most of this history-rich itinerary with photographic memories you'll hold dear forever. Here are a few highlights to look out for:

- Chronicle your horse-drawn carriage ride on car-free Mackinac Island
- Get close up with Niagara Falls on a dramatic ride along the rim, as well as a scenic cruise down Niagara Parkway
- Get an in-depth look at Ojibwe tradition with a smudging ceremony and powwow, as well as a tour of the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation's museum and art gallery — an unforgettable experience!



ART & CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS From rock and roll to indigenous culture, this Great Lakes cruise blends the old, the new, and the evergreen on a delightful 14-day itinerary. Here are some cultural highlights:

- Learn about the Ojibwe Native Americans on Manitoulin Island
- Delve into the culture and landmarks of Toronto on a city tour and with a free day in this vibrant and diverse city
- Take a colorful tour through musical history at Cleveland's Rock

& Roll Hall of Fame

- Tour Detroit's Henry Ford Museum for an automobile-themed look at some of the most important moments in American history. Then, visit the Detroit Institute of Arts for a look at one of the most exceptional collections around



CONCIERGE SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Prior to your expedition cruise, our complimentary Concierge service will be available to help you customize your journey. Here are just a few services your Concierge can provide:

- Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, family reunion or other important event you want to celebrate on board? Let your Concierge know and he or she can make all the special arrangements, whether it's a private reception in your suite, a

gathering in the lounge, and more

- Restaurant reservations. Just notify your Concierge of your interests, and he or she will be happy to make recommendations, and will call ahead to reserve your table
- Special excursions. Would you like a limo to take you for a special night in the city? Perhaps you'd like to look up long-lost relatives. Your Concierge is here to help!
- Extend your stay! Your Concierge can help modify your hotel reservations and flights if you decide to stay on
- Tickets to local concerts, exhibits, theater, sporting events, and more

Take advantage of this free, start-to-finish service by making your requests prior to your journey or during your journey. We are one of the only companies to offer this level of service! Call 1-888-982-6824 or email

Reserve Today! Call Toll-Free **1 800 322 6677** - WWW.VANTAGETRAVEL.COM/ETC24

Concierge@vantagetravel.com to speak to a Concierge today, or simply log into My Portfolio up to two weeks prior to departure. During your journey, your onboard Destination Manager can assist with any special requests such as spa reservations, hotel reservations, and more.



SOLO TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS Independent travelers will enjoy solo-friendly features, such as:

- Onboard Destination Manager to personalize your expedition
- A lively social media night and musical performances most nights
- Solo-friendly social activities, including a Solo Connection mixer
- Onboard entertainment, lectures, and cooking demonstrations
- Health and wellness options, including onboard spa, jacuzzis, and a gym



SMALL SHIP CRUISING HIGHLIGHTS Here's what you'll experience on the brand-new Ocean Explorer:

- Eight stateroom configurations, many with full walk-out balconies, for the most flexible style of travel — plus, suites designed for comfortable triple-occupancy as well as adjoining room options
- A culinary program offering gourmet dining incorporating regional fare
- All beer and wine included with dinner
- Health and wellness options including an onboard spa and

gymnasium

- Expert cultural lecturers and curated performances
- Knowledgeable expedition staff by region
- Environmentally friendly standards with reduced emissions into air and sea and lower energy consumption
- Dynamic positioning technology
- State-of-the-art safety technology, Polar Code 6 compliant, and fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements in expedition cruising
- Rolls-Royce stabilizer system; "Safe Return to Port" technology
- Multiple launching platforms to allow for easy and quick loading of expedition landing craft, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards
- Small passenger-to-crew ratio
- Onboard medical doctor

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- Boutique
- Elevator from bottom to top deck

CHICAGO TO TORONTO

DAY 1:	Fly to Chicago <i>Hilton Palmer House or similar</i>
DAY 2:	Enjoy Chicago at your leisure <i>Hilton Palmer House or similar</i>
DAY 3:	Tour the highlights of Chicago and embark the Ocean Explorer <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 4:	Scenic Sailing on Lake Michigan <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 5:	Step back in time on car-free Mackinac Island <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 6:	Choose your own adventure in Sault Ste. Marie <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 7:	Encounter Ojibwe tradition and a powwow on Manitoulin Island <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 8:	Spend a day on Lake Huron <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 9:	Discover Detroit's Henry Ford Museum <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 10:	Tour Cleveland's iconic sites, including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 11:	Sail into the mists of Niagara Falls <i>Ocean Explorer ></i>
DAY 12:	Panoramic Toronto tour and disembark the ship <i>Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel or similar</i>
DAY 13:	Explore Toronto's gems on your own <i>Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel or similar</i>
DAY 14:	Return home from Toronto



DAY 1: Fly to Chicago

Arrive in Illinois for the first leg of your Great Lakes journey! If you purchased your airfare from Vantage, a Vantage representative will meet you and arrange transfer to your hotel. Spend the afternoon at leisure, with time to explore your new surroundings. Later, join in on a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers.

Included meals: Dinner
Hilton Palmer House or similar

DAY 2: Enjoy Chicago at your leisure

Following breakfast at your hotel this morning, you'll have a full day at leisure to explore Chicago on your own.

Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Enjoy an optional boat tour of Chicago's iconic skyline and savor traditional deep-dish pizza.

Learn more
 Included meals: Breakfast
Hilton Palmer House or similar

DAY 3: Tour the highlights of Chicago and embark the Ocean Explorer

We'll take a longer route from our hotel through the city on a half-day panoramic tour of this cultural capital.

Later, you'll embark the sleek Ocean Explorer in Milwaukee, a two-hour drive away, to prepare for your exciting Great Lakes journey. Thanks to the small size of your ship, in many ports we'll be able to dock right onshore, giving you easy access to your destination. This is almost exclusively how you will embark and disembark throughout most of your journey. However, please note that other ports may require anchoring offshore and tendering inland, which will require a certain level of agility.

Included Feature:

- Half-day panoramic tour of Chicago
 Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 4: Scenic Sailing on Lake Michigan

The only Great Lake located entirely within the United States, Lake Michigan has a surface area of more than 22,000 square miles, making it the fifth largest lake in the world. The name Michigan is believed to come from the native Ojibwe word *mishigami*, which translates to “great water.” After a scenic day of cruising, we’ll gather for dinner in the ship’s main dining room.

Included Feature:

- Scenic cruising day on Lake Michigan
- Onboard Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional onboard experience. Enhance your time on board with one of our Vantage-exclusive activities, including wine and whiskey tastings, a multicourse Chef’s Table Dinner, or an exclusive wine-pairing dinner.

Learn more

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 5: Step back in time on car-free Mackinac Island

We’ll anchor just offshore and tender into Mackinac Island today. With its Revolutionary-era heritage and car-free streets, arriving on the island feels like a true step back in time! Revel in the feel of simpler times with a horse-drawn carriage ride through town. Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring the village on your own before returning to the ship.

Included Feature:

- Narrated horse-drawn carriage tour of Mackinac Island
- Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Enjoy lunch at the historic Grand Hotel and tour Fort Mackinac. Learn more

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 6: Choose your own adventure in Sault Ste. Marie

Today, we’ll transit the Soo Locks from Lake Huron toward Lake Superior at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Located at the mouth of the St. Mary’s River, these four parallel locks — MacArthur (constructed in 1943), Poe (1895), Davis (1914), and Sabin (1919) — pass an impressive 10,000 ships each year.

After docking, you’ll have your choice of adventures and attractions on the U.S. side of the locks, including the Valley Camp Museum Ship and Soo Locks Visitors platform or the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre and Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site.

Included Feature:

- Choice of tours in Sault Ste. Marie: Visit the Valley Camp Museum Ship and Soo Locks Visitors platform or the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre and Ermatinger-Clergue National Historic Site

Please note: The locks can be congested and it is not guaranteed the ship’s passage thru Soo Locks to Lake Superior, in the rare even this happens, we will do our best for those interested to take a ferry to go across.

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 7: Encounter Ojibwe tradition and a powwow on Manitoulin Island

Keep your cameras ready as we cruise through the rugged beauty of UNESCO-listed Georgian Bay, sometimes called the sixth Great Lake. We’ll arrive at our destination of Manitoulin Island, the world’s largest freshwater island and

home of the Ojibwe tribe. With native and non-native communities coexisting like nowhere else on the continent, Manitoulin has a history as colorful and diverse as any in Canada. Docking at Little Current, you'll explore the area's rich native and nautical history, and discover how the beliefs and customs of the Ojibwe intertwine with Catholicism during a visit to the Immaculate Conception Church.

Included Feature:

- Explore Manitoulin Island and visit the Immaculate Conception Church

Cultural Discovery:

- Experience a traditional smudging ceremony and powwow at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

Scenic Sailing:

- Cruise through Georgian Bay - part of a UNESCO biosphere

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 8: Spend a day on Lake Huron

Spend the day marveling at incredible views of Lake Huron. The second largest of the Great Lakes, Lake Huron features more 30,000 islands and boasts more shoreline than any of the other Great Lakes. Head to the sun deck with a cocktail and a good book, or with a good camera for some excellent photo opportunities.

Included Feature:

- Scenic cruising around Lake Huron

Onboard Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional onboard experience.

Enhance your time on board with one of our Vantage-exclusive activities, including wine and whiskey tastings, a multicourse Chef's Table

Dinner, or an exclusive wine-pairing dinner.

Learn more

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 9: Discover Detroit's Henry Ford Museum

Sailing from Lake Erie to Lake Huron, we'll find ourselves in Detroit, Michigan. Peruse artifacts from American history during a self-guided tour of the Henry Ford Museum, home to the limousine that carried President John F. Kennedy on that fateful day in Texas, the bus in which Rosa Parks stood her ground and sparked the Civil Rights Movement, and the chair Abraham Lincoln was sitting in when he was assassinated. Tonight, enjoy dinner and a Motown performance on board as we set sail for Lake Huron.

Included Feature:

- Henry Ford Museum visit

Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion.

Explore the extensive art collection at the renowned Detroit Institute of Arts. Learn more
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 10: Tour Cleveland's iconic sites, including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Embark on a city tour of Cleveland, nestled along the banks of Lake Erie. Depending on the day of the week, our stops may include the stately Museum of Art, the Tiffany-designed Wade Chapel at Lakeview Cemetery, and the bustling West Side Market, where hundreds of vendors hawk everything from fresh seafood to flowers. You're welcome to spend additional time at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland. You'll also have the opportunity to visit the iconic Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, spanning generations of

incredible music history displayed in interactive, audibly pleasing exhibits.

Included Features:

- Half-day coach tour of Cleveland
 - Visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 11: Sail into the mists of Niagara Falls

Excitement prevails today as we disembark in Port Colborne on the southern end of the Welland Canal and drive along the Niagara River for dramatic views of Horseshoe Falls. Here, you'll board the iconic Hornblower "Voyage to the Falls" for a cruise past the American and Bridal Veil Falls before heading into the misty spray of Niagara's thunderous Horseshoe.

Included Feature:

- Niagara Falls visit and *Hornblower* "Voyage of the Falls" cruise to Horseshoe Falls

Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. Enjoy lunch and a wine tasting in the Niagara Wine Region. [Learn more](#)

Please note: Timing and docking may vary due to ship's transit time through canal.
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner
Ocean Explorer >

DAY 12: Panoramic Toronto tour and disembark the ship

After breakfast, disembark the *Ocean Explorer* and set off on a half-day panoramic tour of Toronto. Drive by Toronto City Hall, the Eaton Center, Hockey Hall of Fame, and more, before visiting the pedestrian-only Distillery Historic District. We'll also enjoy the stunning city views from the CN Tower, the tallest free-standing

structure in the western hemisphere and one of the Seven Modern Wonders of the World. Following lunch at a local restaurant, you'll have the rest of the day at leisure, with dinner on your own.

Included Feature:

- Half-day panoramic tour of Toronto
- Included meals: Breakfast & lunch
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel or similar

DAY 13: Explore Toronto's gems on your own

Maximize your Toronto time with a day at leisure to explore this city however you wish. Browse the exhibits at the Art Gallery of Ontario or the Royal Ontario Museum, taste your way through the famous St. Lawrence Market, or enjoy waterfront views from the Harbourfront Centre. Lunch is on your own — and this diverse city offers a gamut of memorable dining experiences.

Destination Enhancement: Customize your journey when you add an optional excursion. On this optional tour, you'll visit two of Toronto's iconic landmarks: the CN Tower and the Hockey Hall of Fame. [Learn more](#)
Included meals: Breakfast & dinner
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel or similar

DAY 14: Return home from Toronto

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Included meals: Breakfast

Please Note: Ocean cruising is not the same experience as river cruising; as such, you may experience fluctuating tides and weather patterns that may involve some rocking of your vessel. Itineraries will include all activities as planned except in extreme cases that can't be controlled by your shipboard crew. Day-by-day itineraries are preliminary and therefore subject to

change. If changes occur while on tour, you will be notified by your Cruise Director or regional expert.

ACCOMMODATIONS