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August 23-30, 2009
8 Days

NORTHERN EXPOSURE: POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

This travel package planned for you by Mary Egger.

This is destined to be one cool trip! Join us as we journey north and escape lowa heat and humidity. Back by popular demand, this unique tour takes an old tradition and adds a few new twists. Read more about "our most unusual motor coach tour."

August 23 we will pick up our travelers on the way to **Duluth, MN**, where we board a **Vista Fleet Cruise** vessel. We will be welcomed aboard with **hors d'oeuvres**. **Dinner** will follow as we enjoy a **narrated cruise** on the beautiful waters of **Lake Superior**. Our menu will include prime rib and walleye, veggies, cheesy pasta, a chocolate dessert and lots of "other good stuff." Following the cruise, we will check in at our hotel.



August 24 enjoy **breakfast** before departing for **Thunder Bay, Ontario**. Our route takes us along a very scenic drive into the tip of Minnesota along the north shore of Lake Superior with its "picture post-card" scenes. We'll make picture stops along Scenic Highway 61, designated an "All American Road" by the National Scenic Byways program. We'll also tour **Split Rock Lighthouse** and watch an award-winning film followed by a narrated **tour of the keeper's cottage and lighthouse**. We will cross the US/Canadian border on our way to Thunder Bay, where we'll visit an **Amethyst Factory** and have a chance to go into the actual **mine** to see how the purple quartz-like gem is separated from the rock, then cut, polished and placed in settings. Our recently refurbished motor inn has a restaurant nearby.



August 25 following **breakfast** we'll travel north and east along the wilderness highways of northern Ontario, to our overnight stay in **Cochrane, ON**. This outfitting center for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and nature excursions into the northern wilderness and Hudson Bay region is where we catch our train tomorrow morning. Our motel has several restaurants close by.

August 26 after **breakfast** at the train station we'll hear "all aboooooard!!!!" the **Polar Bear Express for Moosenee**. Our trip will take us through a region without roads where one travels by water or on foot (or of course on the Polar Bear Express). Don't worry! We don't have to hunt our food. There's a dining car on board for **lunch**. Moosenee is on James Bay, which extends off from Hudson Bay. If you go north on Hudson Bay, you will come to the Arctic Circle. This settlement was virtually an isolated trading post until the advent of the railroad in 1932. To this day no roads lead to the town. Access is by rail or air from Cochrane. (There is no guarantee that Mother Nature will oblige, but most years we were treated to some autumn colors along the way.) As we arrive in Moosenee we'll be met by a local bus which will take us to a ferry to reach our modern lodge. We have a restaurant on site. After dinner, we'll take you on a **twilight tour** of the Moosenee area with a **local guide**. Your guide will recant what it is like to live in this Northern Frontier community. We are also trying to arrange a drive to see the local bears. *(Please note the name of the train is the Polar Bear Express...we will NOT see polar bears but we may see black bears!)*



August 27 following **breakfast** we board **freighter boats** for a trip to the mouth of the Moose River on **James Bay**. Legends and history will be brought to life by your **guides** during the journey through clear waters and clean air. Be on the lookout for Beluga whales, abundant waterfowl and historic sites along the shore of the Mighty Moose. Upon return to Moosenee, we'll visit **Moose Factory Island**, where Hudson's Bay Company began in 1673. We view the beautiful **St. Thomas Church** with its stained glass and beaded moosehide tapestries. Say 'mee-gwich (Cree for 'thank you') to your guide as we leave the island. Your guides throughout the day will not only recant the facts and history, but also

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give you a taste of the culture. Following this tour we board the **Polar Bear Express** for the return to Cochrane for the night, enjoying **dinner** on the train.

August 28 after **breakfast** your luxury coach heads out into the wilds of eastern Ontario through Timmins and Chapleau, crossing the international border to Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Relax and enjoy the very rugged and beautiful scenery. We stay tonight in a hotel with a 24-hour indoor pool and we have a restaurant adjacent.

August 29 after **breakfast** we journey south along the shores of Lake Michigan to Green Bay, WI, for our last night together. After checking into our hotel, we visit **Lambeau Field**, home of the Green Bay Packers. Tour the **Hall of Fame**, 80 years of riveting history and beautifully recreated moments around every corner. Interactive videos line the hallways, and there are 77 exhibits featuring Packer fans (are you in one of them?), the Ice Bowl, three Super Bowl trophies, plaques of all the members of the Packers Hall of Fame, today's team and even a re-creation of Vince Lombardi's office. You will also have a **guided tour** of the **Green Bay Packers Stadium** and **Dinner** at **Curly's Pub** before returning to our hotel, which features a heated indoor pool, sauna and whirlpool.

August 30 following **breakfast** sit back and relax as we make our way back to our departure cities. Share memories with your new traveling friends along the way.



Your 8-Day package includes: Luxury motor coach transportation, lodging for 7 nights, luggage handling, admissions/tickets to all bolded attractions, gratuities to step-on guides, 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners (inclusive of tax and gratuity.)

\$1,688 per person, double occupancy

\$1,638 per person with 3 or 4 persons sharing a room with 2 beds

\$1959 single room accommodations

Reservations: anytime as long as space is available

Balance Due: July 23

Cancel by: July 23 for penalty-free cancellations

Peace of Mind Protection: 5% of trip cost due with deposit

Early Booking Discount: \$50 per person discount applied to final payment if deposit is received by February 6

Guaranteed departure cities: Newton, Des Moines, Ames, Williams, Fort Dodge, Webster City, Clear Lake, Tama, Waterloo, Charles City, Coralville, Cedar Rapids, Independence, West Union, Decorah, Rochester and Owatonna.

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