



GREAT AMERICAN Waterways

July 6 - 22, 2020 & 2021

Departing twice Only!
17 Days from \$5,995 per person

At Uncommon Journeys & Train Holidays, we have long had a reputation for designing holidays that are without equal in terms of imagination and uniqueness and to this end, we have created a brilliant itinerary: downtown Chicago to New York City by small coastal liner via Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, the Welland Canal, Lake Ontario, the historic Erie Canal and the Hudson River, to name just a few. Nicer still, not only will our guests view America, up-close at 'see level' but we have included an amazing collection of ports on the way like quaint Mackinac Island, Wyandotte, Michigan, Cleveland, Erie, Oswego, NY, and West Point.

Happily, in addition to interesting ports, our 'pocket' cruise ship, the 88-passenger Grande Mariner is the perfect antidote to those tired of huge, mass-market cruise ships carrying 4000 guests at a time. With an all-American crew, life aboard is casual and informal with no need for 'dressing up'. Meals are superb and are naturally included in the fare. Snacks and beverages are available 24 hours a day and there is a comfortable observation lounge in addition to open deck space. Better still, is what the Grande Mariner does not offer: no napkin folding lessons, tired Vegas-style cabaret shows, gold chains by the inch and the relentless 'nickel and diming' found on so many ships nowadays. Guests enjoy a low-key, relaxed voyage on a well-designed ship, able to get up close to small ports of call. All cabins are comfortable with in-room facilities and both the lounge and dining room can seat all guests at one time.

Since one can never have enough time in Chicago, our guests enjoy a pre-cruise hotel stay in Downtown Chicago thus allowing ample time in the Windy City. We have intentionally left plenty of free time to explore all that Chicago has to offer including the nearby Art Institute and Grant Park, the Museum of Science and Industry. Saving the best for last, after our voyage from Chicago to the East Coast, we disembark in New York City in the heart of Manhattan under the watchful gaze of the Statue of Liberty. Of course, this holiday is fully escorted by a professional tour manager from start to finish with special parties and events both ashore and aboard the Grande Mariner. But, with only 44 cabins, this voyage will fill up quickly so prompt reservations are encouraged!

All Aboard!

Featuring

- ✦ Complimentary train travel to Chicago from any Midwestern point. Guests living in other parts of the country may take advantage of our special 'Add-on' train fares ranging between \$99 and \$299, depending on your home city.
- ✦ Fully hosted by professional tour manager from start to finish to handle all of the details with special parties and events ashore and aboard the ship.
- ✦ Pre-Cruise overnight in Downtown Chicago at the Chicago Hilton (or similar)
- ✦ Transfer to the ship on sailing day with a special lunch at famed Giordano's Restaurant, known for its authentic Chicago-style deep dish pizza!
- ✦ Fifteen-night passage from Chicago to New York City via the Erie Canal aboard the mini-liner 'Grande Mariner' with all meals & beverages while aboard included.
- ✦ Two-night stay on-board ship in New York City right on the water - the best view of New York - with a full day to explore, shop, or take in of the many Broadway shows.
- ✦ The only cruise between the Windy City and the Big Apple!
- ✦ Optional additional post cruise hotel stays available for those wanting more time in New York.



Sunset on the Great Lakes, we sail where the big ships simply cannot.



A convenient departure right from Chicago's Navy Pier!

RESERVATIONS:
800-323-5893



CONDENSED ITINERARY

July 6 - CHICAGO: Guests arrive Chicago and check into the Chicago Hilton Hotel (or similar)

July 7 - SET SAIL: This afternoon we set sail for our epic journey through these Great American Waterways.

July 8 - MANITOWOC, WI: Known as Wisconsin's Marine Capital, Manitowoc is the home to Wisconsin's Maritime Museum, which captures the riveting history of the entire great lakes area, including the building of 28 submarines for WWII. Don't miss out on the Rahr-West Art Museum which hosts pieces from Picasso, Miro, Dali, as well as many others.

July 9 - MACKINAC ISLAND, MI: A charming Victorian village that astonishingly still relies on non-motorized transportation and we have included lunch at the famous Grand Hotel here.

July 10 - CRUISING LAKE HURON: Relax on the sunny top deck and admire the beautiful views of Lake Huron during a day of cruising en route to Wyandotte, MI. The Great Lakes were carved by retreating ice sheets and filled with the meltwater from ancient glaciers. The indigo-blue waters of the Lakes are cloaked by forest-green pines, with classic lighthouses dotting the rocky cliffs whose banks are home to many animals.

July 11 - WYANDOTTE/DETROIT: Spend a full day in Wyandotte, MI, nestled on the Detroit River. An optional tour in nearby Dearborn, MI begins at the Henry Ford Museum, home to President John F. Kennedy's limousine and the Rosa Parks bus.

July 12 - CLEVELAND: An afternoon arrival in Cleveland, Lake Erie's newly discovered pearl, thanks to countless restoration projects including vibrant cultural arts centers created from old mills.

July 13 - BUFFALO, NY: See this amazing sight up close since we have included a complimentary shore excursion to Niagara Falls (passport required) during our visit

July 14 - Cruise the Welland Canal: Today, cruise the magnificent Welland Canal, which connects Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. Located in the Niagara region of Ontario, Canada, learn how ships travel through the locks of this gravity-flow

canal. Transit through 8 locks which will lower the vessel 320 feet as you bypass the Niagara Escarpment and Niagara Falls.

July 15 - ROCHESTER, NY: This morning explore Rochester, located on the southern shore of beautiful Lake Ontario. It sits at the middle of what has been called the 100 must-see miles of the Erie Canal. An optional tour offers stunning views of towering High Falls on the Genesee River and showcases the city's most notable landmarks. Arrive this evening in Oswego, NY.

July 16 - OSWEGO, NY: Departing from Oswego harbor, enter Lock #8 of the Oswego Canal. One of 4 branches of the NY State Barge Canal System. Cruise the Oswego Canal and then begin your journey on the Erie Canal. After dinner this evening, disembark the vessel to explore Sylvan Beach, NY.

July 17 - SYLVAN BEACH, NY: After dinner this evening, disembark the vessel to explore Sylvan Beach, NY. This quiet town was founded in 1840. Railroads and ferries were the only form of public transportation and made the village a desirable resort community.

July 18 - TROY, NY: The highlight of the Erie Canal, enjoy a leisurely sail to Troy, NY. 5 locks will lower the vessel 169', by passing Cahoes Falls where the Mohawk River flows into the Hudson. Later, watch as the retractable pilot-house is raised back to its full height. Tonight, delight in the local culture during an onboard musical performance.

July 19 - KINGSTON, NY: Tour the Hudson River Maritime Museum and Rondout Lighthouse.

July 20 - WEST POINT, NY: Visit the impressive U.S. Military Academy (subject to accessibility). We arrive in New York City this evening.

July 21 - NEW YORK, NY: Take in the view of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Battery Park, and the Big Apple's world-famous skyline. Docked in Chelsea Pier, explore the New York High Line and Chelsea Market. Overnight aboard our ship docked on the Hudson River.

July 22 - JOURNEY HOME: Guests check out/disembark this morning and journey home!

FARES & ACCOMMODATIONS

Rates listed are per person, double occupancy

All staterooms feature private restroom/shower facilities.

I Economy Inside \$5,995.

Upper & lower beds. *very limited availability.

II Standard Outside \$7,495.

Upper & lower beds, porthole. *very limited availability.

III Standard Outside \$7,895.

One double or two lower beds, picture window.

IV Superior Outside \$8,695.

One double or two lower bed, sliding window/ some have a door which opens to outside deck.

Port taxes are \$395. per person and not included in the above fares. Single rates start at \$9495 plus port taxes.



The Grande Mariner: - This intimate pocket cruise ship is the perfect choice for exploring the Great Lakes offering casual comfort (no need for formal clothing here). All cabins come with facilities, there is a large dining room offering delicious meals with just one seating and a comfortable lounge. With only 88 lucky passengers, it is easy to make new friends.

WATERWAYS NAVIGATED:

Lake Michigan
Straits of Mackinac
Lake Huron
St. Claire River
Detroit River
Lake Erie
Welland Canal

Lake Ontario
Oswego Canal
Erie Canal
NY State Barge Canal
Hudson River
New York Harbor



This is arguably one of the most amazing itineraries, offering striking water views of Chicago, Cleveland and New York and contrasting panoramic views of rural areas along some of America's most historic waterways.