

## **Suggested Itinerary: Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin**

Bordered by the Great Lakes, the Midwest attracts visitors with a range of urban and outdoor adventures. Experience the storied city of Chicago, embrace nature in Michigan and encounter fascinating water features in Wisconsin.

### **Chicago, Illinois**

*Suggested: 4-5 days*

The Midwest's cultural capital is a surprisingly family-friendly destination. Millennium Park is a must-visit for year-round events and world-class public art. Navy Pier offers amusement park rides, shopping and dining. The Field Museum of Natural History and the Shedd Aquarium are among the largest museums of their kind in the world. Art aficionados can see a collection of more than 300,000 objects at the Art Institute of Chicago. Visitors can take a boat cruise along the Chicago River, or get a panoramic perspective at Chicago 360, on the 94<sup>th</sup> floor of the John Hancock Building. The bravest of souls can try TILT, a glass observation cubicle jutting out at a 30-degree angle over Michigan Avenue.

### **Mackinac Island, Michigan**

*Suggested: 2 days*

Between Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas, the entirety of Mackinac Island is a National Historic Landmark, nearly all of it protected as a state park. The ferry that runs from the mainland operates on a seasonal schedule with limited service in the winter. It's well worth strategizing the logistics of travel to experience a destination that takes visitors back in time. The Victorian architecture, absence of chain hotels and an island-wide ban on cars feels like a throwback to a simpler era. Walk, bike or take a horse-drawn carriage to get around.

## Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan

*Suggested: 1-2 days*

Though lesser known than other national parks, Pictured Rocks is among the country's most spectacular natural treasures. The lakeshore earned its name from the colourful streaks of minerals layered in the sandstone cliffs. These natural works of art are best seen from a boat or kayak; tours are available. In the winter, the lake water freezes, often transforming into awesome ice formations against the cliffs. Take time to visit numerous waterfalls, campsites, trails and the historic lighthouse at Au Sable Light Station.

## Apostle Islands, Wisconsin

*Suggested: 1-2 days*

Use friendly Bayfield as the jumping off point to the Apostle Islands, one of the Midwest's best kept secrets. The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Lake Superior is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Join a guided boat or paddling tour to see sculpted rock formations, wildlife, lighthouses and sea caves, or linger on an island for hiking and camping. If winter is especially frigid, the lake freezes enough for visitors to take an ice sled or drive their cars across the ice; lucky visitors may see amazing ice cliffs and caves. In warmer weather, regular ferry service delivers travellers to the cool little town of La Pointe on Madeline Island.

## Madison, Wisconsin

*Suggested: 2 days*

Wisconsin's state capital is active and outdoorsy. Walk, bike, snowshoe or ski along scenic trails at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. Visit Taliesin, where famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright lived for nearly half a century. Get a taste of Madison's burgeoning beer scene on a brewery tour, then savour a meal at a waterfront restaurant along Lake Mendota and Lake Monona. Finish the trip with time on the water by renting a stand-up paddleboard, paddleboat or kayak, or just relax on a guided boat tour.

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