Sailing the Great Lakes
America’s National Treasures, Part 1
August 30 - September 11, 2016

Come with The Hawaii Connection to explore one of our homeland’s most extraordinary national treasures—the Great Lakes, stretching from Minnesota to New York. These five magnificent bodies of water—Lakes Superior, Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Michigan—four of which we share with Canada, plus gorgeous Georgian Bay, comprise the largest freshwater ecosystem on the planet. Here in America’s backyard we’ll observe grand landscapes, geologic wonders like Niagara Falls, indigenous wildlife, charming villages and islands, and traditional Native American cultures.

Our participants will be pleased to take a wee break from travel abroad, in favor of the ease of less-taxing flights to compelling destinations within our own amazing continent.

Discover delightful ports of call while ensconced in the deluxe comforts of Pearl Mist, a boutique cruise ship carrying only 200 guests, that was launched in mid-2014. On this leisurely voyage we will be accommodated in spacious 275-square-foot staterooms with private balconies and ensuite bath facilities. Managed like a private river yacht, this well-appointed ocean-going vessel offers six onboard lounges, a spa, theatre, library, sun deck, fitness area on open deck, WiFi throughout, and elevator. The open-seating dining room serves highly acclaimed American cuisine, accompanied by fine domestic wines. Enjoy complimentary bar drinks during pre-dinner Happy Hours. Featuring the premier highlights of each destination, shore excursions are optional.

Fly independently into Chicago IL, America’s third largest city and a metropolis of many superlatives—site of the world’s longest street, largest public library, only drive-through post office, and largest cookie and ice cream factories. In early afternoon board Pearl Mist to embark on an 11-night leisurely voyage to explore the first in our series of America’s national treasures.

Settled by Calvinist immigrants in 1847, Holland MI, our first port of call, retains its distinctive Dutch architectural and cultural heritage. It boasts DeZwann Windmill, the only authentic working Dutch windmill in the U.S., as well as an astounding 170 active houses of worship, earning Holland the moniker of the “City of Churches.” Onward to picturesque Mackinac Island MI that emerged in the late 19th century as the favored holiday resort of our nation’s powerful Barons of Industry. This automobile-free island is famed for its photogenic Grand Hotel, horse-drawn carriages, and a panoply of fanciful Victorian houses, all radiating the genteel ambience of an earlier age.

Historic Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, established by Jesuit missionaries in 1668, served as a primary trade conduit between Canada and the future United States. Its Soo Locks, passing more tonnage each year than the Suez and Panama Canals combined, enable ships to sail between Lake Superior—a 21 feet higher than Lake Huron—and the lower Great Lakes. Next, call at Little Current ON, the gateway to Manitoulin (Spirit) Island, the largest freshwater island on earth and sacred to the native Ojibwe tribes. The Great Spirit Circle
Kona Historical Society Benefit Journey

Sailing the Great Lakes is offered for benefit of Kona Historical Society. We are pleased to be a beneficiary of this innovative travel program, pioneered by former Kona resident Irene Croft, Jr., that has raised, to date, a greatly appreciated $1,147,690 for Hawaii community organizations. The program’s goal is to offer intelligent, compelling itineraries with deluxe creature comforts to uncommon destinations for absolutely unbeatable value at lowest inclusive fares. KHS is grateful for your included tax-deductible donations which will support ongoing operational expenses as well as stewardship of our extensive archives and nationally award-winning living history projects.

For this journey exclusive features and benefits have been negotiated at rates that simply cannot be matched on your own. In order to secure these substantial advantages for KHS participants, firm commitments are made to travel providers guaranteeing our group’s minimum numbers as well as compliance with any imposed restrictions. Payments for this fundraising benefit journey are accepted solely, by check or bank wire. Trip deposit as well as final payment —due by February 26, 2016—are refundable, less $500 donation to KHS, subject to the terms and conditions of providers’ cancellation policies.

Costed into your trip fare is the premium for TII’s Group Deluxe Protection Plan. Major benefits on tour include up to $250,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation/Repatriation and $50,000 Medical Expense, plus 24/7 Worldwide Emergency Assistance Services. We encourage the purchase of optional Trip Cancellation & Interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.

Trail and colorful Pow Wow festivities demonstrate the culture and heritage of three tribes of Canada’s 634 First Nation (aboriginal) peoples.

Sail to Parry Sound ON, at the heart of 30,000 islands that dot the crystalline waters of Georgian Bay’s entire 93-mile length. This postcardpretty township, named after Northwest Passage Explorer William E. Parry, is renowned for its quaint cottages, spectacular views, and the world’s deepest natural freshwater port. Midland ON, our next call, offers top historical and wildlife sites—Saint Marie Among the Hurons, a riveting living museum depicting the 17th century Jesuit missionary experience, and Wye Marsh, a protected habitat populated by majestic trumpeter swans, the largest of North American waterfowl, with a wingspan up to 10 feet.

Call at Windsor ON, Canada’s southernmost city, located across the river directly south of Detroit MI. From this “City of Roses” known for its vast green spaces, flower-filled parks, and myriad hiking trails, you may visit the nearby Henry Ford Museum and fascinating Greenfield Village, depicting 300 years of American history. Then dock at the town of Niagara Falls, gateway to the 167-foot-high geological marvel that straddles the international border between Ontario and New York State. Comprised of three distinct waterfalls—Horseshoe, American and Bridal Veil—photographed Niagara is neither the tallest nor widest falls on the globe but is certainly the best known and most visited.

Cap our voyage through America’s backyard with a private, rollicking farewell evening aboard Pearl Mist. Disembark in awe-inspiring Toronto, Canada’s largest city. It boasts cutting-edge architecture along with beguiling historical districts, world-class museums, chic boutiques and famed temples of gastronomy. Depart independently on flights homeward bound or participate in our convenient Toronto Overnight Option.

Look forward on this memorable journey not only to the infinite pleasures of discovering the treasures of our homeland but also to the meticulous arrangements and uncommon extras that are a hallmark—and highlight!—of travels around the globe with The Hawaii Connection, our inimitable family of congenial travelers.