



Group Tours Escort Notes

Muskegon County is located in the western part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan along 26 miles of unspoiled, sugar-sand Lake Michigan shoreline. The city of Muskegon is equidistant to both Chicago and Detroit, 183 miles, and 100 miles from the State Capitol in Lansing. We derive our name from Chippewa meaning “river with marshes.”

Heritage Village is a eight-block area that exemplifies Muskegon’s history and includes the **Muskegon Museum of Art**, the **Hackley Public Library**, **Hackley Park**, **Monet Garden**, **Muskegon Heritage Museum** and the **Lakeshore Museum Center**. The Lakeshore Museum Center also oversees:

- **Hackley and Hume Historic Sites** - This site preserves the homes of Muskegon's most famous lumber baron, Charles H. Hackley, and his business partner, Thomas Hume, bringing late 19th century craftsmanship to life.
- **Fire Barn Museum** - A re-creation of the C. H. Hackley Hose Company No. 2 building, featuring a collection of antique fire fighting apparatus.
- **The Scolnik House of the Depression Era** - This Victorian home has been extensively renovated to reflect life in the 1930’s complete with furnishings and household objects of the time. Learn the story of the three families who came to share the home during the Great Depression.
- **Michigan’s Heritage Park at Hilt’s Landing** - This living history park explores 10,000 years of Michigan history in a natural woodland setting. A gentle half-mile trail winds through the park with first-person encounters along the way.

Tour a restored WWII Submarine, a Prohibition-Era Coast Guard Cutter and the wonderful exhibits at the **USS Silversides Submarine Museum!** Experience what it was really like to sail a sub trolling the waters of the South Pacific 60-plus years ago. Walk the deck topside as well as the major internal compartments below deck. Tours also include access to the Coast Guard Cutter McLane, a rare prohibition era vessel from 1927 and the barrier free museum.

The **USS LST 393 Veterans Museum** is a rare World War II landing ship tank and veteran of Omaha Beach. She earned 3 battle stars in World War II and is now a repository of artifacts and displays honoring those who served America and fought for the freedoms we enjoy today.

The **S.S. Milwaukee Clipper**, also known as “The Queen of the Great Lakes” is Muskegon’s original ferry, featuring art deco interiors, a soda fountain, ballroom and movie theater. Built in 1904, seven years before the Titanic, the Clipper traversed Lake Michigan from 1941 until 1970 carrying untold thousands of passengers and automobiles between Muskegon and Milwaukee!

Monet Garden is located at the corner of Clay Ave. and Fifth St. in beautiful downtown Muskegon. The inspiration of the park was provided by the famous impressionist painter Claude Monet’s Japanese garden in Giverny, France. This picturesque pocket park is maintained by the Michigan Master Gardener Association and is open to everyone to enjoy.

The **White River Light Station Museum**, located on the shore of Lake Michigan, is a charming lighthouse built in 1875 by Captain William Robinson. It now serves as a physical reminder of Muskegon’s rich nautical history. Browse the many 19th and early 20th century photographs and nautical artifacts.

The **Muskegon Winter Sports Complex**, located in Muskegon State Park, is a huge facility offering exciting annual events and outdoor sports to the public. Enjoy the most publicly accessible luge in the United State, one of only four public luge tracks in the country. You can also cross-country ski, snowshoe, snowboard or sled on 5 miles of groomed track day or night! They also feature an outdoor ice rink for hockey or skating and a ¼ mile, lighted ice skating trail. Skis, snowshoes, ice skates and sleds are available for rent. The fun continues in the warm months with their Summer Adventure programs! Enjoy the wheeled luge or become an expert archer.

The historic **Union Depot** was constructed in 1895 as a showcase for arriving business travelers and visitors. Its Romanesque architecture and Moorish style archway entrance provided a grand gateway to the city of Muskegon. Today, this former train station is the home of the Muskegon County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Fun Facts

- Muskegon boasts many famous native sons such as silent movie icon, **Buster Keaton**, **Harry Morgan** of M*A*S*H fame, Rock and Roll of Fame musician, **Iggy Pop** and the infamous **Jim Baker**.
- Muskegon has the largest and cleanest beach in West Michigan, **Pere Marquette Park**.
- Muskegon is home to Michigan’s only major amusement & water park, **Michigan’s Adventure**.
- The **Miss Michigan Pageant** has been held in Muskegon for the past 68 years.