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## Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Soo Locks Annual Engineers Day, June 23-27, 2020

**Soo Locks Engineers Day** is June 26, **2020.** It's the event that started it all – the **one day** when you can walk across the mighty **Soo Locks** walls and explore the buildings and special exhibits open only on this **day** – the last Friday in June. **This is only one attraction of the excursion about to begin.** On the first day after lunch, a local guide will give us a driving tour along the waterfront in Mackinaw City. The tour continues by crossing the Bridge into Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Lodging will be in St. Ignace, where there will be an evening barbecue. For those who want to participate, there will be an optional shuttle to the Kewadin Shores Casino.

**Day 2** the group travels to the scenic State Rest Area on Lake Michigan near Manistique where a Park Ranger presents a site interpretation and takes the group by hand powered raft across the Big Springs. Travel to Munising to the Dogpatch Restaurant for a buffet lunch. The next adventure is by boat to view the Pictured Rocks for 10 miles of stunning cliffs, white s and beaches and unique rock formations that make up the shoreline. There will be time on the return to visit the gift shop. Depart for Christmas, MI where there will be overnight accommodations, dinner, and optional time at the Kewadin Casino.

**Day 3** the excursion is to Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The tour Guide takes the group into the Park to see the Upper Tahquamenon Falls, then enjoy lunch from a limited menu. The group continues to The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Pointe, operated by the local Historical Society and is dedicated to preserving the history of maritime operations of the Great Lakes. Other attractions include the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters and Grounds. Take a break as the tour continues along the Curley Lewis scenic highway through Bay Mills and Village of Brimley and on to Sault Ste, Marie where there will be dinner and lodging. After dinner, the motor coach will take the travelers to visit Canal Park and the Soo Locks Visitor Center.

**Day 4** the motor coach returns to Canal Park where there is free time and is the only day in the year where the restricted area is open to the public, known as Engineers Day. Walk or take a free trolley to the Coast Guard Station or explore the USCG Sector Station including any floating plant open to the public. Board the motor coach to take us to lunch. The next stop is at the Cloverland Hydroelectric Power Plant for a tour which explains its operations for more than a century. Continue to the Arts, Crafts and Family Fun Fair at City Hall, visit St, Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Tower of History or many Historic Homes. Board the motor coach for St. Ignace before crossing the Mackinac Bridge and saying goodbye to our Guide. The overnight accommodations and dinner will be in Mackinaw City. **Day 5** the group travels to the Cross in the Woods National Shrine in Indian River. The Cross in the Woods was erected in 1954 from a Redwood tree cut from the mountains in Oregon, 55 feet high and 22 feet wide. The Crucifix was completed in 1959 when renowned Michigan sculptor, Marshall M. Fredericks created the bronze image of Jesus weighing 7 tons, is 28 feet head to toe, and the outstretched arms span 21 feet. Depart for Home mid-morning, with lunch and breaks on your own. So many things to see and to do in such a short period of time is because of great planning. I do not know how it all could happen, but I am sure you will decide this trip is one you cannot put together on your own. Call today, JB Tours of Ohio, 419-435-8165, to be sure you do not miss out on this opportunity.