

A COUPLE OF TRAVELERS
GREAT LAKE MICHIGAN

Boy, Oh Boyne Golf!

Explore northern Michigan from Traverse City to the very magical Mackinac Island and beyond

BY Alice & Danny Scott



The Destination

Great Lake Michigan outlines interior miles that scream “nature” as pure as the driven snow. While winter is lovely in northern Michigan, spring, summer and fall are optimum for golfers’ vacations. The lake is crystal clear and on a windy day the waves are suitable for surfing. Harbors hold yachts for sailing and charming towns showcase shops and restaurants while forests provide green canopies for outdoor activities.

The Venue

The Inn at Bay Harbor gallantly stands guard on the northern shore of Lake Michigan, somewhat reminiscent of San Diego’s Del Coronado. A lakefront room rewards senses with surging or lapping ripples against that shore. Poolside squeals of delight mix with sibling tiffs that are quickly squashed as lawn games deliver family fun and hammocks, relaxation. Floral landscaping is icing on the resort cake that serves as a getaway for all Michiganders and world travelers. Lollipop lamb chops and meaty crab cakes are to die for at the Vintage Chop House where sunset spurs gleeful photographers to rush out the patio door. If not there to take selfies and groupies, peek at the live cam on their website. Sunrises are also glorious with a breakfast buffet in The Sagamore Room.

The Golf

Boyne Golf serves up ten championship-caliber courses and two more resorts. The Heather course at Boyne Highlands was designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. over 50 years ago. The maintenance crew

keeps it fresh as new. Cue the heron to the fountain and pond on the first tee box for a journey’s sendoff through the woods and wetlands. Grab a Chicago dog at the turn, well worth the delicious messiness. Number 18 is a memorable finish, set below the ski slope with a large lake to maneuver front and center.

The Links/Quarry/Preserve 9s are truly a treat at Bay Harbor Golf Club, beginning with four beautiful holes on the Links’ seashore. No, they just seem like ocean holes, but it is Lake Michigan. Dunes and tall grass feel like Ireland’s Enniscrome. The Quarry is a course Fred Flintstone would enjoy with Barney’s rubble, deep gorges, steep rock walls and swans swimming in a pond. Nine is a grand finale beginning with a blind tee shot to the top of a hill facing Lake Michigan. Cross the ravine down to the green where trees are swaying on the very edge of the lake. Bring it home to the warmth of the elegant clubhouse perched above, adorned by brilliant flowers. This is just a sampling of the Boyne beauties.



And More

On land, take a hike, bike, or the Hemlock chairlift for panoramic mountain views. On the lake, sail, paddle, motor and fish. Improve your game at Boyne Golf Academy where players are suited up to produce their onscreen avatar. Please the palate in Petoskey at Palette Bistro with stunning views of Little Traverse Bay serving scrumptious fare and small plates that are plenty big to share. Slip into the spa or share some sips in the Petoskey Wine Region, part of the Tip of the Mitt AVA.

Our Takeaway

We've explored much of northern Michigan from Traverse City to the very magical Mackinac Island and beyond, all dream destinations. Boyne is very special among them for the Magnificent Ten courses within a few miles. Whether reeling in fish, playing rounds of golf, relaxing or reveling in the bounty of nature, this is Pure Michigan at its finest.



The Journey

Fly into Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport and savor the scenic drive north to Boyne Golf. 🚗

