



PERE MARQUETTE ROUTE GUIDE



CHICAGO • HOLLAND • GRAND RAPIDS

We hope you enjoy reading this guide and learning about points of interest along our route. It is written starting from the southern terminus of the train in Chicago and proceeds around the southern tip of Lake Michigan to points northwest, ending in Grand Rapids, Michigan. If you boarded in Grand Rapids, just read the guide in reverse, remembering to look in the opposite direction if one is referenced.

AMTRAK STATIONS are shown in all capital letters, as opposed to towns and cities through which the train passes but does not stop. The Amtrak System Timetable or Pere Marquette® wallet card should be consulted for actual station times. While all service presented in this guide was accurate at the time of publication, routes and services are subject to change. Please contact Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL, visit Amtrak.com, or call your travel agent for the most current information.

Some 12 million people live along the shores of Lake Michigan, sometimes referred to as the "third coast" after those on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The only one of the Great Lakes entirely within U.S. borders, its beaches are known for their soft, off-white, high quartz-content sand, sometimes called "singing sand" for the unique noise it makes when beach-goers walk along it. From the beach grass, sand cherries and Petoskey stones deposited 350 million years ago on the borders of this, the fifth largest lake in the world, to the banks of the Grand River, the Pere Marquette connects cities, landscapes and waterways punctuated by modern skylines at each end. It all renders this 176-mile trip both beautiful and memorable --- "one of the nation's loveliest short-distance trains," according to Passenger Train Journal magazine. You'll want to keep your camera handy as you share your experiences with family, friends and new acquaintances.

[The Pere Marquette obtained its name from a defunct passenger railroad of the same name, which had taken its own moniker from Father Jacques Marquette, a French missionary who founded Michigan's first European settlement in 1671, Sault Ste. Marie. Established in 1900, the Pere Marquette Railway (PM) was merged with the former Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad (C&O) in 1947, and has since become a part of CSX Transportation. Amtrak service, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation, was christened Pere Marquette in honor of those traditions in 1984. A facsimile of the steam locomotive that originally powered the train was seen in the 2004 film, *The Polar Express*. Interestingly, the PM also operated a number of rail car ferries on Lake Michigan in its day.]



WELCOME ABOARD



Relax and enjoy the comfort of train travel as you take in the shoreline of Lake Michigan and its scenic landscapes through Illinois, northern Indiana and western Michigan. From the vibrancy of Chicago to the museums and attractions of Grand Rapids, you'll enjoy superb service and amenities. We are happy to have you onboard today and want to ensure your trip is everything you want it to be. If there is anything that can be done to make your trip more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to ask any Amtrak employee.

THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *Pere Marquette* is here to make your trip a special and enjoyable experience.

Conductor is responsible for the On-Board Services staff as well as ticket collection, the safety of passengers and the safe operation of the train.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Coach seating provides a wide reclining seat with foot rest, folding tray table and overhead reading light.

HOST RAILROADS are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. The *Pere Marquette* trains operate between Chicago and Porter, Indiana over the tracks of the Norfolk Southern Railway, and on the tracks of CSX Transportation between Porter and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Information contained in this route guide as well as described amenities and features are subject to change without notice. While gratuities are not required for services provided, it is an appreciated way to convey to an employee that he or she has made your trip more enjoyable.

CHICAGO Vibrant and energetic, Chicago is the industrial core of the Midwest and a major transportation hub. In the heart of America's agriculture belt, it is a leading distributor of farm products. Its many regional food specialties reflect the city's ethnic and working class roots. Its spirit is also exemplified in its unique architecture; here is where the word "skyscraper" originated in 1885. The arts and sciences are also alive here, with an abundance of world-renowned theaters and museums. Most Amtrak long-distance trains originate or terminate here.

As we pull out of the covered platforms in the station, look left for an impressive view of the city skyline. Among its magnificent structures are the Sears Tower, Daley Center and John Hancock Building. Soon, again on the left, is Cellular Field, home of the Chicago White Sox. We now cross the South Branch of the Chicago River, famous for its backwards flow, and where ships ply Great Lakes ports along the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Sanitary engineers reversed its flow in the early 1900s to prevent epidemics. As we cross the Rock Island Railroad at Englewood, imagine the intense rivalry between the Twentieth Century and Broadway Limited trains as they raced one another to New York decades ago. Of note is the New Regal Theater, originally an "atmospheric" motion picture palace where the audience sat in an imaginary courtyard under the stars. Today, it is a showcase for live entertainment. The cemetery on the left is where Harold Washington, the city's first African American mayor, is buried.

Soon, we cross the Illinois/Indiana state line, followed shortly thereafter by the Indiana/ Michigan border.

Illinois/Indiana/Michigan State Lines

New Buffalo has become a popular resort town owing to its lakeshore location and proximity to Chicago. Various festivals, boat parades and beach celebrations throughout the year testify to its reliance upon tourism. A casino built in 2007 brought thousands of new jobs to the area. Famous summer residents include television's Dennis Farina, the ex-Chicago cop and erstwhile *Law and Order* detective Joe Fontana; film critic Roger Ebert; and Harley-Davidson CEO James Ziemer.

ST. JOSEPH-BENTON HARBOR constitutes what is known locally as the "Twin Cities." St. Joseph established a water route to carry mail to Chicago in 1825. The business evolved into major shipping and steam lines that survived into the 1950s. St. Joseph might have taken the place of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in aviation history had native Augustus Moore Herring been able to achieve *controlled* flight when his craft lifted off for seven seconds in 1898; that feat fell to the Wright Brothers five years later. In 1911, the company that evolved into the Whirlpool Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of home appliances, was born here; today, it maintains a presence in both communities. Benton Harbor's Sarett Nature Center comprises a 300-acre wildlife sanctuary with trails, an interpretative building and Jean Klock Park on the lake. St. Joseph hosts one of only three Venetian Festivals in the U.S. each July. Based on *carnevale* in Venice, Italy in the 1600s, the festival features food, contests, music, fireworks and a lighted boat parade. Actor and comedian David Adkins – better known as Sinbad – hails from Benton Harbor.

BANGOR was settled in 1834 by Charles Cross and J.R. Monroe, who were sent to survey land Cross's uncle had acquired from the government. A new township was organized in 1853, dubbed Bangor at the suggestion of a Maine native. A large quantity of giant hardwoods provided for building materials and a source of commerce. After its depletion, apple, pickle and blueberry farming became the new economic base of the community. In 1981, the Bangor Train Factory was

set up in the old train depot to manufacture G-scale model trains under the banner of the Kalamazoo Toy Trains. Within two years, its products were used as prizes on the television game show *The Price is Right*, and a train set was presented to then-president Reagan. Unfortunately, the operation succumbed to lower-priced foreign competition in 1991. In 2005, the depot, built by the former Pere Marquette Railroad in 1926, was restored and rededicated.

HOLLAND is known for its Dutch history and heritage, having been settled in 1847 by Calvinist separatists escaping religious persecution in the Netherlands. Known also as the “City of Churches,” it is home to the church that kicked off the “What Would Jesus Do?” bracelet trend in 1989. The Holland Museum, Cappon House Museum and Settlers House Museum contain exhibits pertaining to the city’s history, and its downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Across the channel is the Holland Harbor Light, a lighthouse known locally as “Big Red.” Zwaan, an original 250-year-old Dutch windmill, is situated in a municipal park on Windmill Island. The H.J. Heinz Company operates the world’s largest pickle factory here – at the same location since 1897. The Tulip Time Festival in May attracts big-name entertainment acts and tourists who visit attractions such as Dutch Village and Veldheer Tulip Gardens. *Money Magazine* recently named the city as one of its five top places to retire.

GRAND RAPIDS Michigan’s second largest city, located on the banks of the Grand River where there was once a set of rapids, was created on May 1, 1850. It was home to one of the first scheduled passenger airlines in the U.S., Stout Air Services, with flights to Ford Airport in Detroit in 1926. The city became a major lumbering center and manufacturer of furniture; the office variety is the focus of its industry today. The Furniture Manufacturers Association was organized here in 1881. In 1880, it installed the country’s first hydroelectric generator, and in 1945, Grand Rapids was first in the U.S. to add fluoride to drinking water. The late and former President, Gerald Ford, is buried on the grounds of his Presidential Museum here in the town where he grew up. Recently, the city has attracted businesses focusing on health sciences. The annual Festival of the Arts began in 1969. In 2004, the premier of the film *The Polar Express* was held here, the setting for the movie and home of the book’s author and main character. The Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park is Michigan’s second most popular destination after the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

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