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## Many ways available to view scenic color areas

By MARY BEVANS GILLETT  
Special to the Record-Engle

The fall foliage can be enjoyed from several modes of transportation. Whether your tastes run to flying in airplanes, riding in boats or partaking in more landloving pursuits, the Grand Traverse region promises color tours for all interests.

Airplane tours afford panoramic views of the season's colors and the region's corner of Northern Michigan. Several firms offer chartered air tours throughout the color season. These include Winchester-Frazier Aviation (616) 946-4912, Acme Flying Service (616) 938-1910, and Trans-Air (616) 941-0150. Tours can be arranged for varying lengths and numbers of passengers with costs prorated accordingly. Winchester-Frazier and Trans-Air depart from Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City, and Acme Flying Service leaves from the Acme Skyport. For more information, contact the air services directly.

The Star of Charlevoix offers dining along with its color tour cruises along the shores of Lake Charlevoix. The ship runs through Oct. 19 with two daily lunch cruises as well as Friday and Saturday evening dinner cruises. Two enclosed, heated decks and an "all you can eat" buffet promise comfortable amenities while you enjoy your tour. Daily lunch tours last 2½ hours and begin at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For information and reservations, call (616) 547-9032.

You can also cruise and view via a chartered boat tour through local marine services like Sail North in Traverse City (616) 922-3000 and Go-Pher-It in Interlochen (616) 275-7168. Sail North offers a sail around the bay on a captained yacht for an hourly fee. Twenty four hours advance notice is required.

If you prefer to captain your own ship, rental boats are available through several sources such as Ship'n Shore in Elk Rapids (616) 322-6104; and Sail North in Traverse City (616) 922-3000. A variety of boats can be rented on hourly, daily and weekly rate schedules. Check with each location for individual requirements.

Landlovers can enjoy the colors with feet planted firmly on the ground through the region's numerous nature trails and hiking paths. The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has over 25 miles of marked trails throughout its 71,000 acre park. The Sand Lakes Quiet Area near Williamsburg also hosts peaceful hiking trails through a colorful forest.

Eight driving tours as well as additional hiking suggestions are included in a Travelers Pocket Map published by the Candle Factory. The map outlines walking and driving tours extending from Frankfort to Petoskey and is available at the Candle Factory on Grandview Parkway in Traverse City as well as visitor information areas throughout the region. The Department of Natural Resources located on 14th Street in Traverse City also distributes its own maps of hiking trails and state-owned land in the region.