

TRAVEL

# Board the S.S. Badger for a Great Lake adventure

By SYLVIA ABBATE  
SPECIAL WRITER

If you want to add some seafaring adventure between a Michigan-Wisconsin color tour, you may consider giving up some highway miles aboard the Lake Michigan Car ferry.

Many Michiganders use the ship, named "S.S. Badger," to enjoy automobile travel time or to cut a Great Lakes cruise adventure without the ocean cruise price. Crossing time between the two ports is just four hours. Boats

leave 8:30 a.m. from Ludington and 2 p.m. from Manitowish, Wisconsin until October 9. The sailing schedule begins May 19 and reaches a peak in the summer, with two crossings offered daily from June 23 to August 27.

The Badger first set sail in 1952 as one of seven ferries that transported railroad cars between the port of Ludington and the Wisconsin ports of Manitowish, Keweenaw and Milwaukee. Today, the S.S. Badger sails on by popular demand, as a passenger-

vehicle ship. And although the Badger still maintains its industrial steamship look, its size and amenities are impressive.

Over 400 feet long, the Badger carries up to 620 passengers per cruise along with 130 automobiles harbored on the first level. The second floor has a cafeteria, movie theater and children's area where kids can be entertained with stovetop games and a video arcade. There is also a gift shop featuring souvenirs, clothing and personal items. Evening cruises feature

folk singers, comedy or bands playing popular tunes. The upper deck of the Badger is where you'll find the true sea worshippers. You can board the ship in Ludington or Manitowish. Ludington is a short trip away from other popular destinations including Potoskey, Harbor Springs and Mackinac Island.

As for the port at Manitowish, it's like sleeping back in time. Visit the town's 1940s submarine at the Wisconsin Maritime museum,

visit the vintage ice cream parlor down the street with hand-carved cherry wood booths and pewter ice cream dishes. The port is a short trip away from Door County's scenic shoreline, Green Bay, and the Wisconsin Dells — the Midwest's number one family destination.

Round-trip adult fare is \$115, including vehicle. Fares for those under 16 are \$25. Children under five travel free. Call 1-800-841-4243 for more information.

For more information on things to do near the ports in Michigan or Wisconsin, call the Ludington Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau 1-(800)-542-4000 or the Manitowish Area Visitor and Convention bureau 1-(800)-282-7892.

Sylvia Abbate is a free-lance writer who lives in Farmington Hills.

## Farm hosts Sheep and Wool Festival

By BENITA GREEN  
SPECIAL WRITER

The fifth annual Sheep and Wool Festival takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24 at Mt. Bruce Station, a sheep farm, (6440 Bordin Road, six miles north of Romeo, Mich., two miles west of M-59). Gate admission is \$4; children under 5, free. Call (810) 798-2568 or (810) 798-2660 for information.

Yvonne Uhlmanuk, perhaps best known as the former owner of Tweneey's Cafe in Birmingham, runs the two-day educational happening at her farm.

Uhlmanuk raises her flock of Corriedale and Romney sheep mainly for their wool, but also uses many of the ram (male) lambs for meat, which is available

year-round along with the yarn and knitted goods at her on-site store, The Farm Wool Shop.

The sheep are fed a natural grass and grain diet and produce yarn in colors ranging from black, to brown, taupe, silvery gray and cream.

Uhlmanuk explains the process of shearing and carding wool at the festival with the help of fellow farmers and craftspeople who set up demonstration booths on the farm.


Children can enjoy hayrides, play farm games, or learn to make simple crafts such as felt balls.

Adults can participate in various wool craft seminars or just stroll on the grounds. There will also be a ceremony blessing the new harvest, performed in the style of Old

English "Morris" dancers by a professional troupe.

■ Autumn Days — Colonial Michigamoc in Mackinac City. Village residents prepare for winter, the 18th century French fur trading village and military outpost will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Oct. 15. Fort Mackinac Tea Room on Mackinac Island will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21-22 and Oct. 28-29. Call (906) 847-3328 or (916) 436-5563.

■ Fall color tour, casino, Mackinac Island, Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 14-15. Cost \$115 per person, offered by Omega Travel, Farmington. Call (810) 471-0535 or 1-(800)-441-6401.



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