

# Our Cross Country Expedition (Part II)



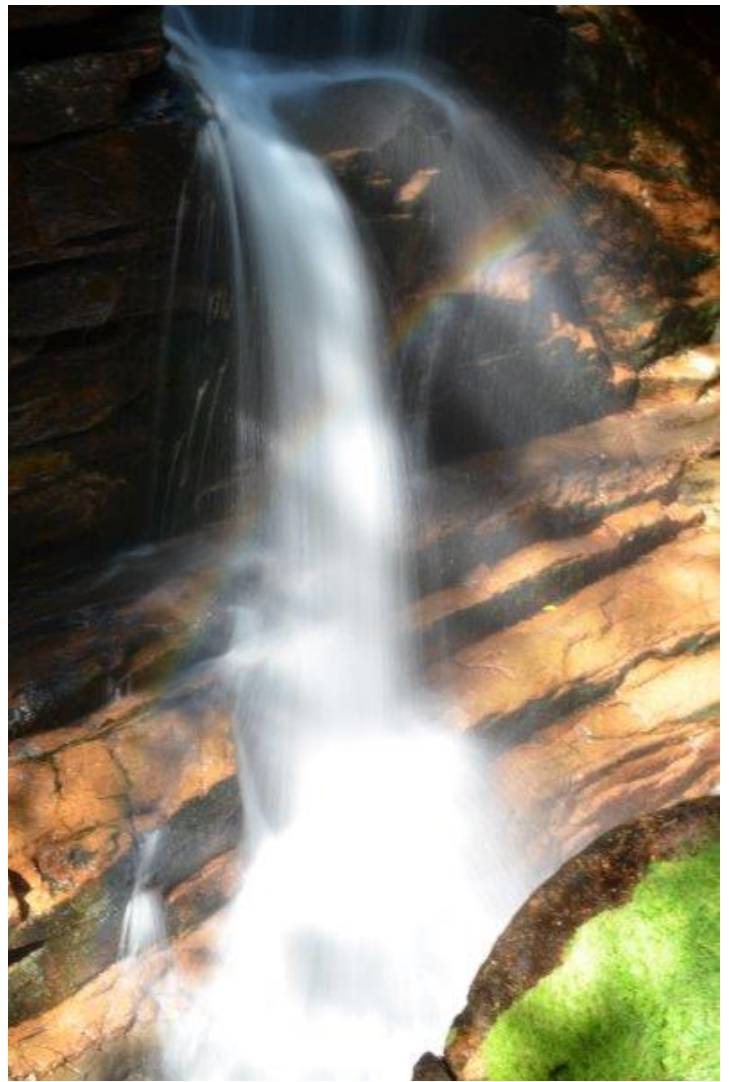
## Day 1 (9/1/2012):

Our first stop after leaving Boston was to visit the marvelous Flume Gorge of Franconia Notch State Park near Lincoln, New Hampshire. While there, I also was able to satisfy one of my long time wishes to revisit New Hampshire, where I spent my first year in the United States and where I had endured the coldest winter I can ever remember thirty two years prior.





The walls of granite in Flume Gorge rose to a height of 70 to 90 feet and are only 12 to 20 feet apart making visitors feeling squeezed between the tall gorge walls.



Because of too much time spent visiting Flume Gorge and Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, we did not have much time to make any stops in Vermont other than its welcome sign.



We, then, concluded our first day on the road, after driving for total of 360 miles to settle in Albany, New York, the capital of the Empire State.



**Day 2 (9/2/2012):**

This morning, we started our day by driving to the famed Finger Lakes Region of New York, home to many New York's beautiful state parks and, of course, Cornell University, the first Ivy League School I have ever visited, that was in 1980.





The nearby Ithaca Falls.



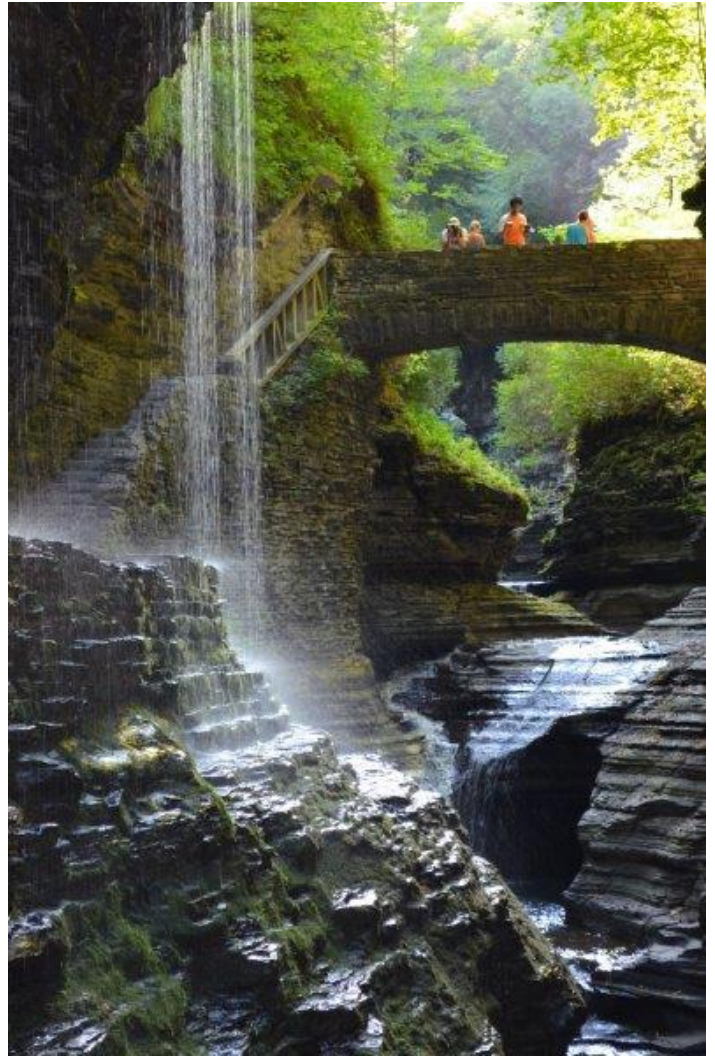
Buttermilk Falls at Buttermilk Falls State Park. Because of the drought, the Buttermilk Falls did not have much milk but a lot of butter.

Robert H. Treman State Park, a prime swimming spots for the hot and humid East Coast summers.

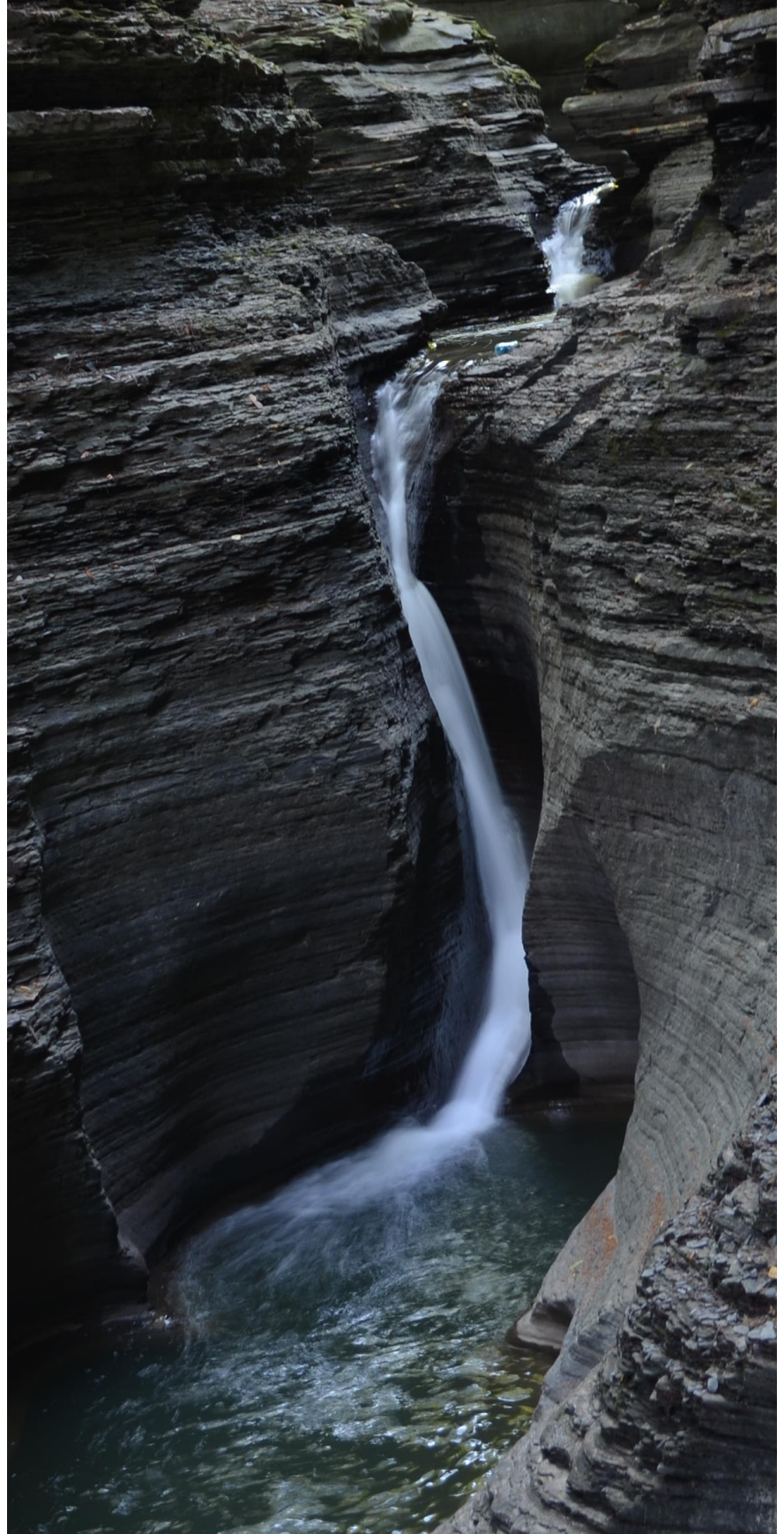


Next was the much anticipated Watkins Glen State Park which had a long reputation of leaving the visitors spellbound. The magnificent Gorge has numerous streams, lakes, as well as many waterfalls.





I had visited many places, foreign and domestic, prior to this trip, impressed by countless beautiful sites, but only until then, I couldn't help to say it to myself: "If there is indeed a paradise, this must be it!"



Spent the night in Rochester, New York, total driving: 270 miles.



**Day 3 (9/3/2012):**

Coming from the “Paradise”, it seemed that nothing could attract our attention, even the world’s largest (by flow rate) Niagara Falls. Nevertheless, we made a stop since it was on the way to our next destination.





Drove to Tobermory, Ontario, Canada for overnight stays, total driving distance: 315 miles.

**Day 4 (9/4/2012):**

Spent the day first visiting Bruce Peninsula National Park, Ontario, Canada by Lake Huron.



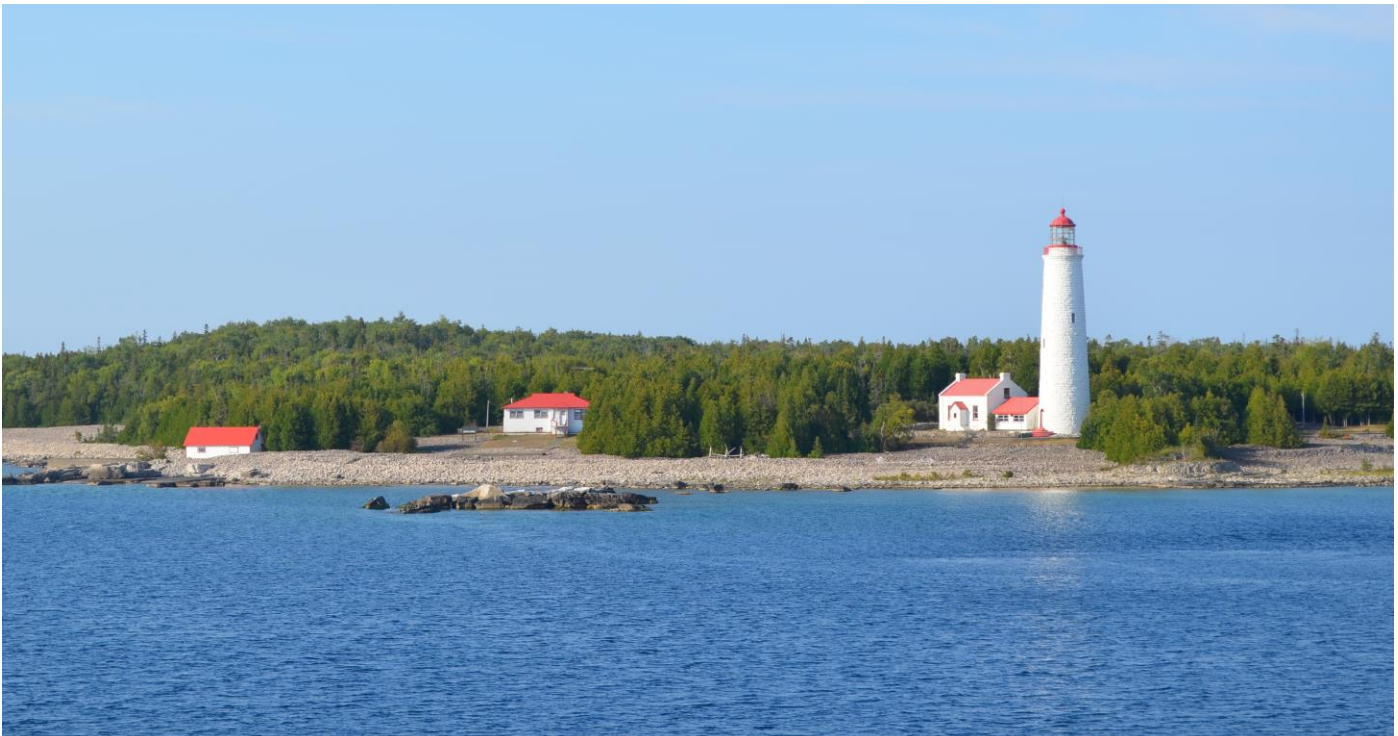
Indian and Carmel Heads Rock and the rocky shores of Bruce Peninsula National Park





An underwater cave with sapphire blue water at Bruce Peninsula National Park.

The latter half of the day was to visit Fathom Five National Marine Park for its famous clear emerald green and sapphire blue waters; ancient rock formations; and cliff-edge forests. It is also a popular scuba diving destination due to large number of shipwrecks, though it was too cold for it when we visited the park. The highlight of this visit was to embark onto Flowerpot Island by a glass bottom boat which allowed tourists, on their way, to view the famous shipwrecks without having to get wet.











A busy but relaxing day in terms of driving, only 50 miles. Overnighted at Tobermory, again.

**Day 5 (9/5/2012):**

A travel day going back to the States. First, there was a 29 mile ferry ride from Tobermory to South Baymouth, Ontario, and then a long drive from South Baymouth, Ontario to Munising, Michigan via the border towns of Sault Ste. Marie Ontario, Canada and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, the United States. It was kind of funny that these two towns both bearing the same name, but one on each side of the border. There was an approximately 20 minutes wait at the border crossing, not too bad.

Total travel distance: ferry 29 miles, driving 360 miles.







A Native American tipi

Munising Falls, Munising, Michigan

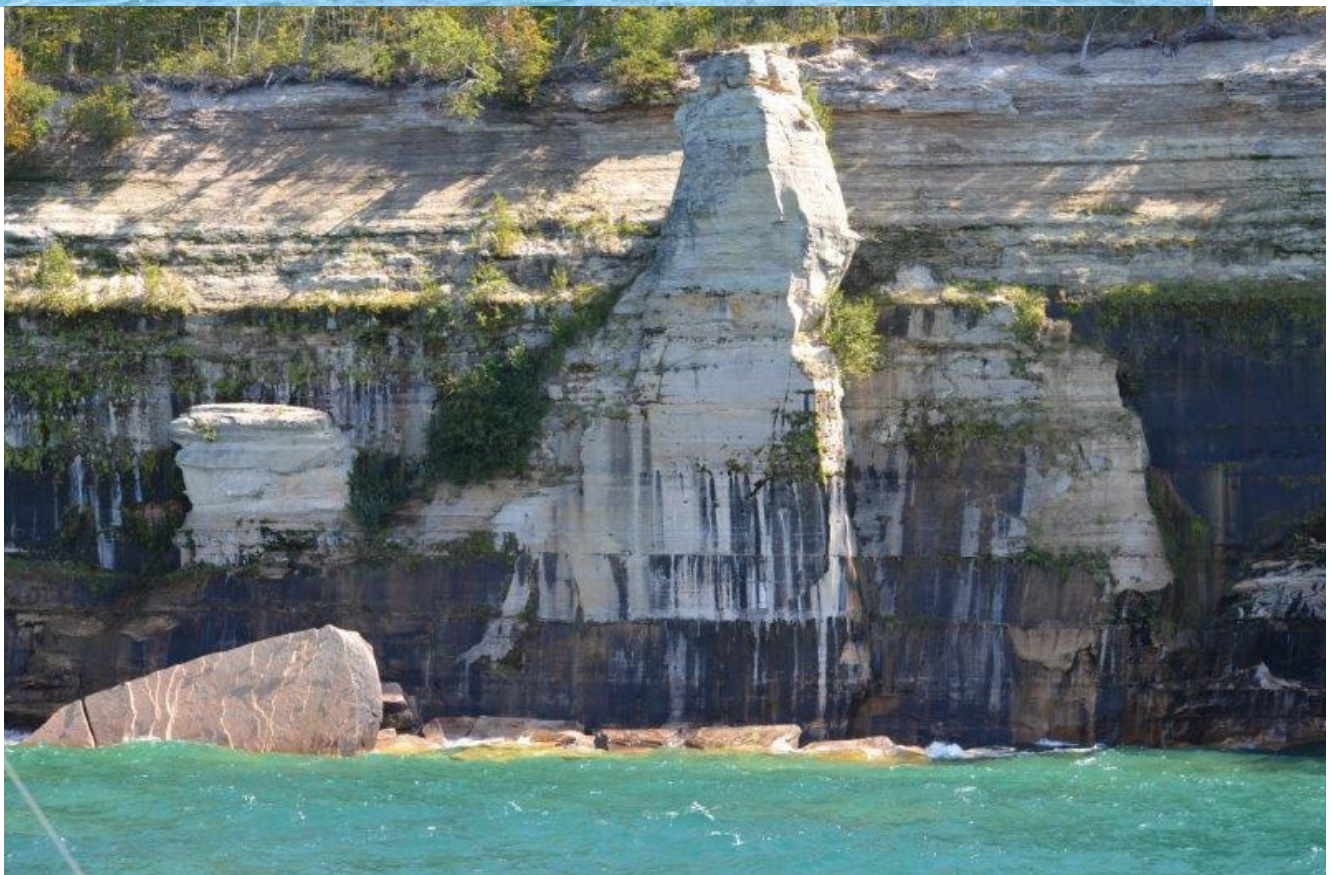


Said “good-bye” to the day by viewing sunset at Lake Superior, the largest freshwater lake in the world before retiring to our hotel in Munising, Michigan. Below is Miner’s Falls near Munising.



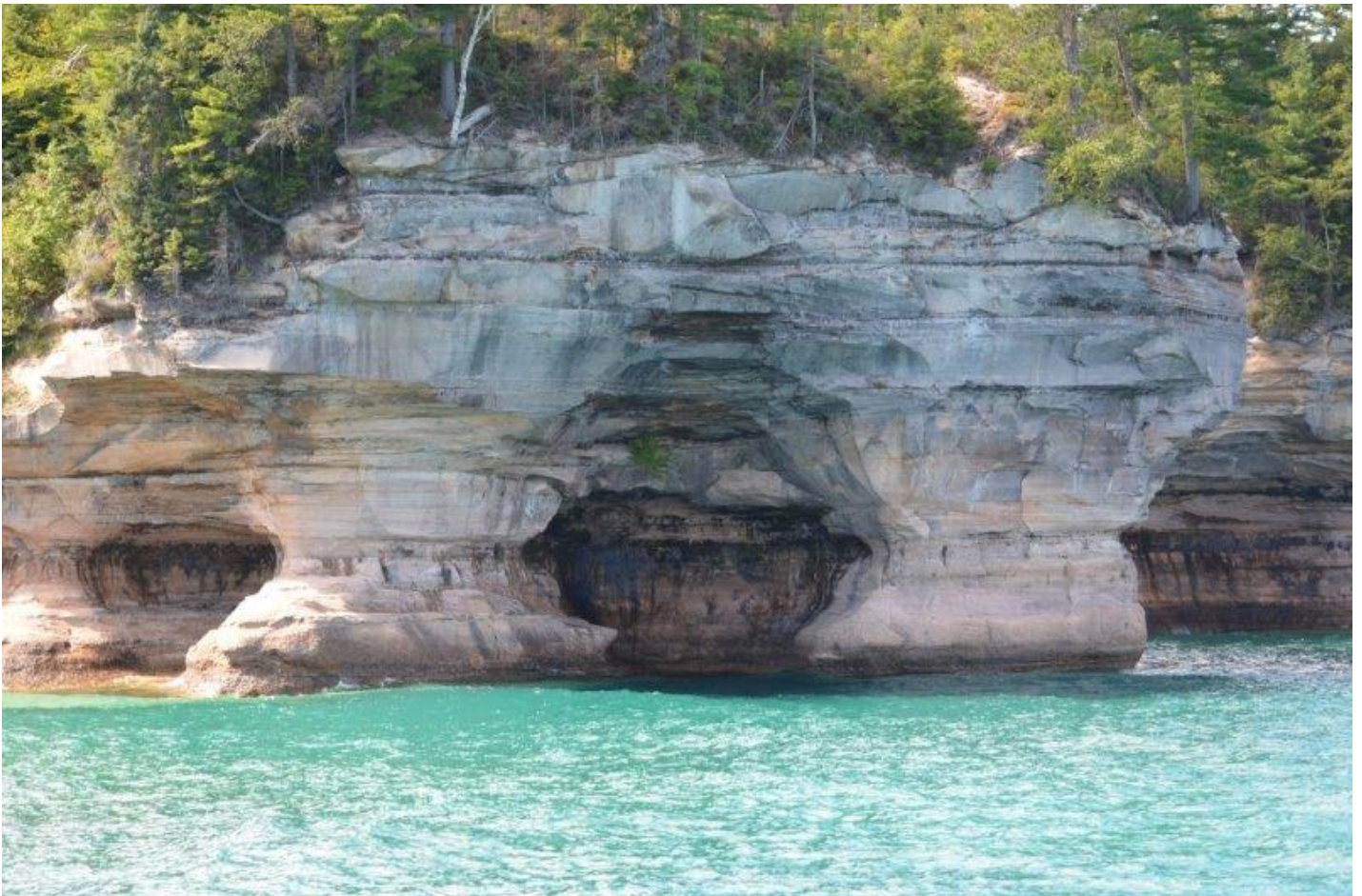
**Day 6 (9/6/2012):**

Our reason for staying in Munising was to be able to conveniently visit the beautiful Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore at the south shore of Lake Superior since the park is only accessible by boat.



This park offers spectacular scenery of the hilly shoreline between Munising and Grand Marais, Michigan, with various rock formations like natural archways, waterfalls, and sand dunes. Pictured Rocks derives its name from the 15 miles of colorful sandstone cliffs northeast of Munising. The cliffs are up to 200 feet above lake level. They have been naturally sculptured into shallow caves, arches, formations that resemble castle turrets, and human profiles, among others.







After disembark the rewarding Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Boat Tour, we drove 225 miles to cross into the “cheese state” of Wisconsin, arrived and overnighed at Ashland, Wisconsin.



To be continued.