



# Independence to Grand Rapids

APRIL 27-MAY 1, 2026

## Tour Gardens of Michigan

Experience the beauty of Michigan’s gardens from Grand Rapids to Lansing and Holland as you connect with nature, and fellow garden enthusiasts, along the way. Stroll through vibrant blooms, enjoy the colors of Tulip Time, and learn how Michigan State University is shaping the next generation of horticulturists.

### DAY 1: NEXT STOP, GRAND RAPIDS!

Hit the road for an unforgettable garden journey through Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Holland, Michigan! Along the way, we’ll stop for lunch on our way in Morris, Illinois, before continuing north into Michigan. This evening, check into the Country Inn & Suites, Grand Rapids for our 4-night stay. Then, enjoy a Welcome Dinner, a chance to engage with your fellow travelers and get ready for the beautiful garden adventures that await! **D**

### DAY 2: FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

This morning, we’ll explore the acclaimed Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, a stunning 158-acre destination blending art, nature, and design. Begin with a guided tour led by Lynda Fiester, then enjoy free time to wander at your own pace through botanical gardens, nature trails, and one of the nation’s premier outdoor sculpture gardens. Take a leisurely tram ride, browse the gift shop, or enjoy lunch over at the café. This evening, savor a group dinner at Pietro’s Italian Restaurant before another comfortable overnight stay in Grand Rapids. **B, D**



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### DAY 3: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE GARDENS

Today, we'll explore the beautiful Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens on a privately guided tour. Wander through 14 acres of diverse campus gardens and the arboretum while learning how MSU's renowned horticulture program is cultivating the next generation of plant scientists and garden designers. After a group lunch in Lansing, return to Grand Rapids for a relaxing afternoon at leisure. Visit the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, explore the Grand Rapids Public Museum, or simply unwind at your hotel. Tonight, visit the Grand Rapids Downtown Market, a vibrant food-and-community hub, for a bite to eat. **B, L**

### DAY 4: THE GARDENS OF HOLLAND, MI

Begin your morning at Windmill Island Gardens, a picturesque 36-acre park that celebrates Dutch heritage and horticulture. Stroll the grounds amid a display of 150,000 tulips, explore the history of the 1761 Dutch windmill, savor traditional Dutch cheeses, and enjoy the melodies of the antique street organ gifted from the City of Amsterdam. After lunch, continue to Veldheer Tulip Garden and De Klomp Wooden Shoe & Delft Factory. Wander through fields bursting with 5 million tulip bulbs in 850 varieties, meet the artists who hand-paint the only authentic Delftware in North America, and discover the traditions behind crafting classic Dutch wooden shoes. **B, L**



### DAY 5: HOMEWARD BOUND

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Michigan and begin our journey home. Along the way, enjoy some free time in charming Galena, known for its historic downtown and boutique shops, before a farewell dinner at Charlie's Place to celebrate our travels together. **B, D** 🍷



## TOUR DETAILS

5 Days • 9 Meals

April 27-May 1, 2026

Price Per Person:

Double: \$1,699; Single: \$2,053

Depart/Return:

Independence, IA

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
- Have a private tour of the Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens
- Dine at the Grand Rapids Downtown Market
- Visit two gardens in Holland, Michigan during tulip season

## INCLUSIONS

- Gratuities for your Tour Director and Motorcoach Driver
- Welcome Dinner and meals as indicated (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Fees and tips for included attractions and meals
- Luggage handling at the hotel
- Free bottled water on coach
- 24-hour emergency call service

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Nights 1-4: Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Grand Rapids

Note: Tour is for 18 years and older

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