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CHICAGO MAY 13th –MAY 17th 2019 TENTATIVE DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

Day One: After boarding our coach this morning, we head southwest toward the great state of Michigan. Traversing this lovely state we travel around the south shores of Lake Michigan and into the great state of Illinois. Lunch, coffee and duty free stops along the way! Late afternoon we check into our home away from home, the Hampton Inn downtown Chicago for the next four nights.

Day Two: After breakfast we meet our guide in the lobby and depart the hotel at 9:00am. We experience a “Windy City Wonders” tour. Our guide will highlight Chicago’s history, architecture, culture, and magnificent skyline as you traverse the city on this very informative tour.

After our city tour of the loop we go on to Navy Pier, a 50-acre park that’s an incredible outlet for fun! Recent renovations have been completed adding more local dining along with café style seating with a view of the lake and skyline. The new taller ferris wheel has larger, climate controlled cars and offers a longer ride to better experience the stunning views! Lunch is on your own at the pier.

After lunch we enjoy a guided tour of Millennium Park with its stunning outdoor art and philanthropic spirit. This 26 acre park features the Frank Gehry designed concert pavilion and great lawn, the Crown Fountain projecting Chicagoans’ faces onto two 50 foot towers of glass brick, and the amazing Cloud Gate, affectionately called “the Bean”, a 1100-ton elliptical stainless steel sculpture reflecting the city’s famous skyline and the clouds above. A great photo op!

Next we will continue our tour to the historic Nickerson Mansion, once a magnificent private home, it is now called the Dreihaus Museum showcasing the beautiful period furnishings and artwork.

We will continue on to marvel at eh incredible variety of Italian edibles at Eataly. Celebrity chef Mario Batali operates this huge emporium devoted to all things tasty and Italian. We will visit the Nutella bar, the Gelato stand or purchase some candy for gifts. Upstairs you will find gorgeous cheese, breads and meats for purchase, plus seven different eating venues from casual to upscale. We will return to the hotel to freshen up before going out to dinner at Pompei a favorite restaurant in Little Italy run by the third generation of the same family! Once dinner is over we visit the John Hancock Observatory and take in the breathtaking view “Chicago 360”. See beautiful views of four states and the stunning lakeshore!
Return to hotel.

Day Three: After breakfast we have a free morning to explore on our own, perhaps some shopping on the Magnificent Mile? At 1:00 pm we meet our guide in the lobby. Our first stop will to explore Hyde Park, historic, progressive, and always exciting, always changing and the Jewel of Chicago’s south lakefront. This was the site of the 1893 World’s Fair. The beautiful Midway Plaisance is now a part of the University of Chicago’s campus. The Palace of Fine Arts, now the



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Museum of Science and Industry! Lovely homes, including former President Obama's surround the campus. His presidential library will be located nearby.

Next we will discover the largest science museum in the western hemisphere The Museum of Science and Industry, was the Palace of Fine arts building World's Fair and now is home to a fascinating array of exhibits. We will then return to our hotel to get ready for our dinner and Cruise tonight.

Day Three continued: Tonight we will enjoy a few hours aboard Chicago's newest dinner cruise ship the Odyssey on the Chicago River. We will float down the river enjoying light commentary, music and a wonderful meal. This newly designed vessel has a glass roof for optimum viewing of the city's iconic architecture.

Return to hotel.

Day Four: After breakfast we will meet our guide for 9:00am in the lobby. Our first stop we will see the Chicago Fire Academy from the "Great Fire" to the Chicago Fire on TV fame, the Chicago Fire Department has a legendary reputation. We will learn the history of the department with a visit to their training facility located on the site of Mrs. O'Leary's barn where the Great Chicago fire allegedly began.

After our visit we will visit a Bakery in Little Italy that has served many generations of Chicagoans authentic treats. We will then continue our tour to the booming West Loop the former meat packing district is now the entertainment and technology hub for the city. We will make a quick stop for photos at the United Center where the Chicago Black Hawkes and Bulls play their home games. Lunch is on your own at Portillo's – our favorite spot for Chicago style "dogs" or Italian Beef. Order your beef sandwich "Dipped" to soak up as much tasty gravy as possible!

After lunch we will continue our tour along the Gold Coast and see the Astor Street Historic District with the turn of the century elegant mansions and townhomes set along the lakefront. We will also visit the beautiful Lincoln Park for a stroll thru the historic gardens and conservatory.

We then return to our hotel to relax and freshen up before going out to dinner. This evening we experience Tommy Gun's Garage, Chicago's only original Speakeasy dinner theater. You will be transported back to da 1920's complete wit da gangsters and da flappers, roaring twenties music, silent movies, memorabilia from da twenties, a replica of the St. Valentines' Day Wall, and pictures of da gangsters and da coppers from da times along with a delicious dinner. Enjoy a Roaring 20's Musical Revue and have a "bang up time"!

After dinner we return to the hotel.

Day Five: All good things must come to an end. After breakfast we check out and start our journey home. With stops enroute, including Duty Free, our arrival back in Toronto will be approximately 9:00pm.

WELCOME HOME!