



May 10, 2017
(Wednesday)

**SAINTS
AND
SINNERS**

Jackson, MI

Itinerary:

We will depart Grand Rapids this morning and enjoy “Breakfast-To-Go-Bags” en route, as we begin our captivating journey to Jackson, Michigan.

We will start our journey through 179 years of Michigan Corrections, as we travel to the historic Michigan Theatre to view “Jacktown: The History of Michigan’s First State Prison”, where we will see and hear utterly fascinating history in an amusing and interesting interactive program, with storytelling by live tour guides, film clips, archival photos, and audience participation! We’ll get to experience intriguing tales of prison life, crime, corruption, colorful inmates, warden, night-keepers, and reforms. We will witness what solitary confinement held in store for those who disobeyed and the types of punishments meted out to others.

We’ll get a glimpse into the past mini-city of factories and farms that the prison became, as it grew into the largest walled prison on the planet and turned Jackson into one of the leading industrial cities in the nation, with some time for shopping in the Old Prison Gift Shop. We will take a break for lunch and dine at Steve’s Ranch for delicious food and lost of conversation, as we soak in the first part of the tour.

Up next, *we’re doin’ time at Michigan’s First State Prison*, now Armory Arts Village, a resident artists’ community, for a tour “From Historic Prison to Artistic Vision”. As we walk within the old 25 foot-high prison walls, we’ll experience more tales of this intriguing prison history while visiting the old solitary area and viewing murals depicting the unique prison history, and painted by two resident muralists. We’ll enter the brick, mortar, and stone Grand Gallery with its windows are still lined by prison bars and built entirely by prison labor. We will definitely hear the echoes of thousands of inmates past. When done, we can browse in the Grand Gallery to purchase souvenirs of our prison tour and arts, crafts, and jewelry created by the resident artists.

Finally, we travel to St. Demetrius Orthodox Church, for the Saints portion of the tour, that is adorned with Byzantine Frescos from floor to ceiling, painted by the world renowned iconographer, Nicolai Enachi, using an ancient specialized technique that dates back over 1800 years. The Orthodox tradition of Iconography, brings the Bible to life, and shows the world theology of Christ in painting.

After experiencing the beautiful Icons and their intriguing history, we will enjoy sitting in the comfortable and cozy fellowship hall, as we enjoy coffee, while being served a very special treat of delicious Baklava; that is freshly baked by the ‘Baklava Bakers’ of the Sisterhood of St. Demetrius Orthodox Church. After, we begin our journey home, with an approximate return in Grand Rapids of 7:00 pm.

*Meals Included Key: BTG = Breakfast to Go Bag,
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch and D = Dinner*