

Welcome Aboard Michigan's

# BLUE WATER LIMITED



ROUTE BROCHURE & SCHEDULE



Between the Michigan/Indiana state line and downtown Chicago the Blue Water winds for 58 miles through the Indiana cities of Michigan City, Porter, Gary, Hammond and Whiting. From your train window you'll get a closeup view of one of the world's foremost steel producing centers. You'll also see Lake Michigan itself, with giant iron ore ships arriving from mines in northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. And you'll catch numerous glimpses of Chicago's magnificent skyline.

● **CHICAGO** pop. 3,369,359—At Chicago's downtown Union Station the Blue Water connects with other Amtrak trains bound to and from points throughout America and with an extensive commuter rail network serving nearly all major suburban areas. The Windy City offers a wide range of exciting things to see and do—giant skyscrapers, marvelous shopping, famous museums and some of the best restaurants and theaters in America. In Union Station Amtrak personnel can provide you with all of the travel and sightseeing tips you'll need to see Chicago in style.

## BLUE WATER LIMITED

DAILY	EFFECTIVE 10/29/78	DAILY
4:15 pm	Lv CHICAGO (CST) Ar	11:25 am
6:52 pm	Ar NILES (EST) Lv	10:37 am
7:34 pm	Ar KALAMAZOO Lv	9:55 am
8:15 pm	Ar BATTLE CREEK Lv	9:25 am
9:12 pm	Ar EAST LANSING Lv	8:10 am
9:38 pm	Ar DURAND Lv	7:42 am
10:03 pm	Ar FLINT Lv	7:22 am
10:24 pm	Ar LAPEER Lv	7:00 am
11:25 pm	Ar PORT HURON Lv	6:15 am

For information on other Amtrak services in Michigan and nationwide, call Amtrak Toll-Free from anywhere in Michigan at 1-(800)-621-0353.

summer and winter resort parks and lakes and is most famous for its extensive wine producing vineyards. As you gaze out your window, you'll view a rolling countryside that is blessed with just the right climatic conditions and soil characteristics necessary to develop wines that are unique, yet comparable in quality to many of the great wines of the world. These vineyards are located close to the sandy shores of Lake Michigan where prevailing cool winds off the lake prevent premature budding of the vines in the in the spring. During the fall, lingering warm breezes from the lake provide this region with an extended growing season which means grapes can ripen to perfection. Michigan ranks third in the nation in wine grape growing.

● **NILES** pop. 12,988—Several major historical sites are marked with monuments in Niles, including the site of the original Fort St. Joseph settled in 1691. In 1832 the Chicago Road, which was being built from Detroit to Chicago, was at least passable as far as Niles. Stagecoaches carried passengers and mail three times a week from Detroit, making the trip in just three days, if the road was dry. From Niles to Chicago passengers would board ships and sail down the St. Joseph River then across Lake Michigan to the Windy City. The railroad station in Niles is a classic in railroad architecture. Built in the 1890's by the Michigan Central Railroad, the depot grounds were developed into a maze of beautiful gardens which supplied flowers for use on the tables in the railroad's dining car operations. Just a few miles south of Niles is South Bend, Indiana, home of the University of Notre Dame.

From Niles the Blue Water sprints for some 31 miles through southwestern Michigan before entering the State of Indiana. Prior to crossing the state line the train passes through the small towns of Buchanan, Galien, Three Oaks, New Buffalo and Grand Beach. Several miles northwest of here is Warren Dunes State Park. The sparkling waters of Lake Michigan and two miles of majestic sand dunes make this a popular summer resort haven. Also in this area is Bear Cave. Named by the Potawatomi Indians, this cave was used in the filming of the early movie thriller, "The Great Train Robbery."

● **BATTLE CREEK** pop. 38,938—From Port Huron to Battle Creek the Blue Water travels over the Grand Trunk Western Railroad. In Battle Creek the Blue Water switches to a route which at one time was part of the Detroit to Chicago mainline of the Michigan Central Railroad. Today, this route is owned partly by Conrail and partly by Amtrak. Known as the "Cereal Capital of the World," Battle Creek has thousands of visitors come to the giant Kellogg Company complex each year. In 1876 Dr. J. H. Kellogg headed-up a sanitarium where he emphasized the value of a vegetable diet. A former patient of Dr. Kellogg, C. W. Post, began the manufacture of health foods in 1895, and he organized the Postum Cereal Company the next year. W. K. Kellogg, a brother of Dr. Kellogg, soon afterwards established the Kellogg Toasted Corn Flake Company.

Between Battle Creek and Kalamazoo, the Blue Water travels through the small towns of Augusta and Galesburg. For hundreds of years this area was the hunting grounds for the Algonquin Indian Nation. In the early 1800's Galesburg was an important halting point for stagecoaches carrying passengers between Detroit and Chicago.

● **KALAMAZOO** pop. 85,555—Be sure to take a look at the Kalamazoo train depot. It's been renovated and today is Michigan's first Intermodal Transportation Center. Travelers will find rail, intercity bus and local transit all serving this one convenient terminal. From here buses connect with Amtrak trains to shuttle passengers to and from Grand Rapids. The convention facilities of the new Kalamazoo Center and Inn reflect the city's belief in hospitality. This facility lies next to the famed pedestrian mall, where beautifully landscaped walkways, reflecting pools and random benches invite shoppers to linger and enjoy the park-like setting. This area is within easy walking distance of the rail passenger station. On the western edge of Kalamazoo, the Blue Water passes next to Western Michigan University. With nearly 20,000 students, WMU is one of Michigan's major state-supported universities. Southwest of Kalamazoo, the Blue Water travels through the small communities of Lawton, Decatur and Dowagiac. This region boasts many popular



# WELCOME ABOARD!

Michigan's "Blue Water Limited" provides modern intercity rail passenger service along a route stretching from the sandy beaches of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River, across the Great Lakes State to the bustling metropolis of Chicago. Once aboard the Blue Water, you'll enjoy wide and comfortable reclining coach seats with big picture windows to catch all of the passing scenery. You'll also discover a fully stocked TurboCafe area offering a wide range of food and beverage service throughout your trip.

## Meet Our TURBO

When you travel over the Blue Water Route, you'll be riding aboard one of Amtrak's sleek new R.T.G. Turboliners. Originally designed for service over the French National Railways System, the Turbo normally consists of 5 individual train cars. Because the Turbo has locomotive cabs at each end, there is never a need to turn the train. It can operate in either direction with ease. The train itself weighs approximately 250 tons and is over 400 feet in length. Powerful turbine engines, located in the front and rear power cars, combine to produce a total of 2,280 hp. With its unique turbine powerplant and its finely appointed interior, the Blue Water Turboliner is truly one of the most advanced passenger trains in the world.

## The Blue Water Route

The route of the Blue Water Limited is unique in the fact that it serves such a wide variety of landscapes and life styles, from the prime agricultural areas of eastern and southwestern Michigan to huge auto and steel industrial complexes, from the seat of state government to the campuses of major colleges and universities.

To make your trip more interesting and to better acquaint you with the scenery and history that you'll be experiencing, this brochure will serve as your personal sightseeing guide as you travel the route of Michigan's Blue Water Limited. Our route brochure starts in Port Huron and works westward toward Chicago. If you're traveling east, simply begin at the end of this folder and read in reverse.

**PORT HURON** pop. 35,794—Located on the shores of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River, Port Huron is the home of Michigan's Blue Water Ltd. Forming the international boundary with Canada, the St. Clair River separates Port Huron from Sarnia, Ontario. This important shipping lane annually handles more tonnage than the Suez and Panama canals combined. In addition to Great Lakes shipping, the railroad industry has played an important role in the historical development of Port Huron. As a young lad, Thomas Edison served as a vendor aboard passenger trains serving Port Huron over 100 years ago. Port Huron's modern new rail passenger station was designed and built in 1974 to service the Blue Water Limited. Its development was made possible through the joint efforts of Amtrak, the State of Michigan and the City of Port Huron. From across the river in Sarnia, VIA RAIL CANADA provides daily rail passenger service to Toronto, with connections to Montreal. See your Amtrak agent for details of this service.

Traveling between Port Huron and Lapeer you'll notice the small communities of Emmett, Capac and Imlay City glide by your window. This is prime farming country noted for its carrots, onions and potatoes. Near Imlay City you'll see the Champion Motor Home complex which produces a wide range of motor homes for national distribution.

**LAPEER** pop. 6,314—This is one of Michigan's oldest cities, having been founded in 1833, four years before statehood was granted. Its courthouse, built in 1839, is the oldest in the state and is still in use today. The father of our National Park system, the late L. S. Cramton, was a Lapeer native and the city's beautiful park bears his name. The rail route between Port Huron and Flint was originally proposed in 1836. Actual construction of the line, then known as the Port Huron and Lake Michigan Railroad, was not completed until shortly after the Civil War. In 1897 this line became part of the Grand Trunk Railroad and today is an important segment of Grand Trunk's Port Huron to Chicago mainline.

**FLINT** pop. 193,317—This is the home of the largest General Motors manufacturing center in the world. The Flint Cultural Center, near the heart of downtown, keynotes Flint's attractions. Here you can visit the Longway Planetarium, DeWaters Art Center, Bower Theatre, the Alfred P. Sloan Panorama of Transportation Museum, Flint Institute of Music and Whiting Auditorium. The Blue Water Ltd. isn't this area's only passenger train. Just north of the city you can climb aboard the Huckleberry Railroad. With vintage 19th century steam locomotives, this popular tourist line winds for almost ten miles through the beautiful Genesee Recreation Area. As you pass through the west side of Flint and neighboring Swartz Creek, you'll see the massive industrial complexes of Buick and General Motors. Flint is the home of Buick and is a key Michigan automotive production center.

**DURAND** pop. 3,678—This is probably the most famous railroad community in Michigan. As the railroad industry expanded following the Civil War, Durand became a key rail junction point with routes radiating out of the community like spokes on a wheel. The city is proud of its railroad background and, in an attempt to preserve its heritage, has opened a community railroad museum, complete with a giant steam locomotive donated by the Grand Trunk Western Railroad.

Between Durand and East Lansing the Blue Water speeds through the small towns of Bancroft, Morrice, Perry, Shaftsbury and Haslett. The neighboring towns of Morrice and Perry provide an interesting tale of early railroad expansion in Michigan. The communities were rivals in attracting the railroad which would, of course, be a prosperous asset to the location winning acceptance. As the story goes, the people of Perry, in an effort to beat Morrice, gathered on a Saturday night and made off with the railroad's supplies of rail and ties. Working through the weekend, they built a siding and moved the entire town on wheels to the site of the railroad's new mainline.

**EAST LANSING** pop. 47,540—Just east of the East Lansing Amtrak station the Blue Water actually passes through the beautiful campus of Michigan State University. Visible from your train window is the largest system of student dormitories in the United States. You'll also see MSU's new medical complex and of course the 76,000 seat Spartan Stadium. MSU is America's pioneer Land Grant university, and today, with over 40,000 Spartan students, it is truly one of America's great institutions of higher education. The East Lansing Amtrak station, adjacent to campus, also serves as the rail station for Lansing.

**LANSING** pop. 131,403—When Lansing was selected as home of Michigan government, there were only eight registered voters in Lansing Township and the township industry consisted of one sawmill. The 1835 state constitution required that relocation of the state capital, then in Detroit, be considered. Those who settled in the interior of the state felt that Detroit was too close to the Canadian border and would be within reach of enemy guns from the Canadian territory across the river. In 1897 Ransom Eli Olds created the Olds Motor Car Company in Lansing. Today Lansing is the home of Oldsmobile and a number of other major auto-related industries. The huge Olds manufacturing complex is visible from your train window, as is the scenic Grand River.

Southwest of Lansing you'll pass through Charlotte and Bellevue. Charlotte is the home of one of the most beautiful courthouses in Michigan. This bold red and white building, topped by a clock surmounted in turn by a statue of Justice, was erected in 1885. Bellevue is a small agricultural community that was once the site of a major lime mining industry. The town is preserving selected lime pits and other associated items of the once prosperous industry in an attempt to retain the heritage of this region. The railroad first reached this area in 1869. This line was originally built between Lansing and Battle Creek by the Peninsular Railway Company, later to be absorbed by the Grand Trunk Western Railroad.