

# Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summary

## PORTAGE LAKES

FRI JULY 9, 2021

Departures, as applicable, from Elyria, North Olmsted, Middleburg Heights, Independence, Beachwood, Boston Heights.

This tour is certainly an experience that should be new to many of our passengers. The Portage Lakes area is home to many residents, campers and boaters, offering sightseeing cruises, fishing, dining establishments and plenty of chances to observe wildlife. It is so popular, there are 74 campsites for those wanting to enjoy “nature”.



The Portage Lakes came about as a result of glacial activity, created by huge chunks of ice breaking off a retreating glacier and melting in depressions forming kettle lakes. The surrounding wetlands attract geese and waterfowl during the migration periods while mallards, ducks and Canadian geese nest in the wetlands.

Portage Lakes is named after the old Indian portage path which connected the Cuyahoga and the Tuscarawas rivers. The Portage Lakes lie at one of the highest points of the state and on a major watershed divide in Ohio. Some water from the lakes reaches Lake Erie while other flows to the Ohio River.

Our groups cruise the lakes aboard the Portage Princess, a 45-passenger vessel. And, while we are here, we will be having lunch at a popular location, a favorite with local residents, visitors and boaters alike. During this tour we anticipate learning about the various airships that make up the Goodyear Blimp Fleet, including the two newest models, the “Spirit of Innovation” and the “Spirit of America” (awaiting confirmation at the time of publication). The Blimp Hangar at Wingfoot Lake is one of three airship bases that Goodyear has, with the other two being in Pompano Beach (Florida) and Carson (California).



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All tour details are anticipated at the time that the Scheduled Tour Brochure was prepared and specific stops and/or other inclusions are subject to change or elimination without notice. This tour typically departs between 6:30 AM and 8 AM with the exact time shown on the itinerary you will receive approximately one to two weeks prior to the tour departure. Tour typically returns about 6 to 7 PM, although this may vary.



We will be learning about the tasks of maintaining, transporting, flying and promoting this most-unusual “fleet”, keeping these “aerial ambassadors soaring high” as they proudly say. While we will not be going up in one today, interested participants can generally schedule a ride in one of these blimps that are oftentimes seen flying above major sporting events.

You will be learning about the science of blimps, old and new, and safety features . . . Did you know that the newest models have a latching mechanism that is designed to anchor the Blimp in extremely strong winds. Should the ship somehow break its mooring, it would auto-deflate to contain the damage to the ship and prevent it from floating away, according to their web site. Or, did you know, it is about 82% of the length of a football field or that it weighs almost 20,000 pounds. These are definitely “big craft” yet they can travel 73 miles an hour while seating 14 passengers. In case the hangar tour is not available for any reason, an alternate visit will be substituted and noted on this web site.

**\$124 per person**

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