



## Cheboygan Lock

Cheboygan Lock Passage is a five-day CPC training route that blends inland river navigation with classic Great Lakes Island hopping. Equal parts seamanship, piloting, and cruising rhythm. It's designed for crew members who want meaningful miles without making every day a marathon, while still building the decision making and boat-handling skills that create confident skippers.

We depart Traverse City (TVC) and work east toward the Cheboygan River Lock, using the first leg to reinforce passage planning, watch rotation, traffic awareness, especially through the Straits and clean arrivals. The lock transit itself is a key training moment: crew members brief roles, handle lines and fenders, manage communications, and learn how to stay calm and organized in a constrained and procedural environment. Once through the lock, we enter narrow river waters, a perfect setting focus on close-quarters handling, refine slow-speed control, and practice “working the boat” with intention, not urgency.

From there, the passage cruises into the Les Cheneaux Islands with stops in Hessel and Cedarville. This portion is ideal for anchoring reps, tight harbor work, and practical piloting through busy, nuanced waterways where course discipline and situational awareness matter. Crew members rotate through skipper-level responsibilities, route selection, briefing the crew, running approaches, and leading docking and anchoring exercises.

The itinerary continues to iconic Mackinac Island for a memorable layover and more challenging approaches, where timing, ferry traffic management and composure are part of the training. The run home to TVC adds the final test, smart decision-making through the Straits of Mackinac, where currents, wind, and waves, can change the plan quickly. The straits are notorious for unpredictable and changing conditions. By the end of the five-day passage, crew members leave with a rewarding sense of a “long trip completed” and, more importantly, a stronger, more repeatable system for planning, executing, and leading a multi-day Great Lakes cruise and beyond with confidence and experience.