2025 Historic Libraries Grand Tour

You've probably heard of Andrew Carnegie, the steel baron from the late 18th century, after whom Carnegie Hall in New York City is named, along with a couple of other Carnegie Halls in other cities back in the day. But did you know that he provided grants for almost 1700 libraries around the country, and another 800 built around the world? Yes, with the vast wealth that he accumulated from his business ventures, he created a foundation for philanthropy. From 1883 to 1929, his foundation gave grants to communities around the world to build libraries so that average people could become educated and informed, and better their lot in life.

From February 1902 to April 1918, grants were awarded to build 61 libraries in Michigan. Today, many of those 61 libraries still remain. Some continue to operate as libraries, while others have been converted to museums, offices, and other uses.

For this year's grand tour, you will visit 14 libraries or former libraries, including eight in the lower peninsula and 6 in the upper peninsula, so you can get out and see as much of our great state as you care to see. We'll have awards for Grand Tourers, Baby Grand Tourers, and Trolls (for those who have to stay below the bridge). You can also earn up to 42 extra credits for special recognition as a Grand Tourer PRO at the annual MOTY banquet. Extra credits can include other historic Michigan libraries, attractions, scenic spots, historical spots, unique restaurants, or whatever else you find that is uniquely Michigan. You can sign up at a meeting or request the information by emailing keithmdanielson@gmail.com.

The grand tour runs from March 29 to near the end of the year. It's done at your convenience, in any order, by yourself or with friends, and as quickly or slowly as you like. There are no prescribed routes, just 14 checkpoints. It's basically an excuse with a destination to go for a ride on your motorcycle.

You must be an MSTR member to participate in the grand tour.