

2024-2025 GUEST GUIDE



Experience

A circular logo featuring a stylized lighthouse with a red top and a white body, set against a blue background with a white wave.

St. Ignace

INSIDE: ATTRACTIONS. LOCAL SHOPPING. WHERE TO EAT.

LIVE MUSIC 7 NIGHTS A WEEK

ST. IGNACE

THE SMALL TOWN WITH BIG EVENTS

2024 SCHEDULE

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

Native American Cultural Teachings
& St. Ignace History Teachings
Museum of Ojibwa Culture, 6:30pm-7:30pm

WEDNESDAYS

Wacky Wednesdays, Downtown 6pm-7pm

THURSDAYS

Bayside Farmer's Market
St. Ignace City Marina Lawn, 3pm-7pm

FRIDAYS

Friday Night at The Museum
Museum of Ojibwa Culture, 6:30pm-8:30pm

SATURDAYS

Swingin' Iggy Street Party
Downtown, 7pm-10pm
Fireworks Over the Bay, Dusk

SUNDAYS

Beach Bash, Kiwanis Beach, 4pm-7pm

LIVE MUSIC 7 NIGHTS A WEEK
7pm-8:30pm at
AMERICAN LEGION PARK

ANNUAL EVENTS

MAY 10-12 JEEP™ the YOOP

MAY 25 Native American Festival

MAY 25 Vintage Warbird Fly Over

JUNE 7-9 Bronco the Mac

JUNE 27-30 St. Ignace Car Show Weekend

JULY 4 Community Parade, Celebration & Fireworks

AUGUST 2 Lighted Drone Show, Downtown

AUGUST 3 Straits Brew Bash

AUGUST 9-11 Heritage Days

AUGUST 23-25 Rendezvous at the Straits Powwow

AUG 31-SEPT 1 Arts Dockside AT ST. IGNACE MARINA

SEPTEMBER 2 Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk

SEPTEMBER 6-7 Mackinac Bridge Antique Tractor Crossing

SEPTEMBER 13-15 St. Ignace Truck Show

SEPTEMBER 20-22 Trek the Mighty Mac

SEPTEMBER 27-29 Strait U.P. JEEP™ Creep

SEPTEMBER 28 St. Ignace Fall Festival

DECEMBER 14 Antique Snowmobile the Mac

For more information, contact the St. Ignace Visitors Bureau!
(800) 338-6660 or (906) 643-6950
stignace.com • info@stignace.com

**St. Ignace**
YOUR HOME PORT

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE OR CALL AHEAD FOR INFORMATION.

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WELCOME TO HISTORIC ST. IGNACE

THE EASTERN GATEWAY TO MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

Founded in 1671, St. Ignace is the state's second oldest city - just two years younger than Sault Ste. Marie. The city is embraced by two Great Lakes - Lake Huron and Lake Michigan - and its rich multi-cultural history; maritime, railroad, and auto heritage; abundant natural resources and recreational activities, and year-round festivals and special events have made it a favorite all-season destination for generations of families.

From the Mackinac Bridge to Mackinac Island, Castle Rock to the Mystery Spot, Lake Michigan's sand dunes to downtown tunes, St. Ignace doesn't disappoint. There's a lot of magic here in the center of the freshwater world, and you're bound to fall under its spell!

This guide is here to help you make the most of your visit and have the best experience possible. St. Ignace has so much to offer and we want to share it all with you.

Please be courteous and leave this guide for the next guest to enjoy.



WHAT'S INSIDE:



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MACKINAC BRIDGE

The Mighty Mac

There is nothing that says "Michigan" more than the Mackinac Bridge. This iconic engineering marvel has linked Michigan's two peninsulas since November 1, 1957. At the time of its construction, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. It now ranks as the seventh longest.

The Mighty Mac was conceived by bridge designer and engineer David B. Steinman, who is considered among the world's foremost bridge designers. He and his associates built more than 400 bridges on five continents during his career, including the International Bridge that connects Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, with Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

A great place to view the Mackinac Bridge is from Bridge View Park, just west of the Mackinac Bridge toll plaza. On site is an enclosed observation pavilion that has information and exhibits inside about the history and construction of the bridge. The park also offers public restrooms, picnic tables and grills, and a telescope that allows for up-close views.

Because the Mighty Mac is a suspension bridge it was designed to adjust to many factors, including high winds and temperature fluctuations. The deck at the center span of the bridge can move east or west in one direction up to 35 feet when under severe weather conditions. To guarantee bridge safety, routine maintenance and inspections are performed continuously.

For additional information about the construction of the bridge, to check on bridge conditions, or to view the Live Bridge Cam, visit the Mackinac Bridge Authority online at www.mackinacbridge.org.

Discover the Details

- **Total length of bridge:**
5 miles / 26,732 feet
- **Height of main towers above the water:** 552 feet
- **Height of roadway above the water at midspan:** 199 feet
- **Number of wires in each cable:** 12,580
- **Total weight of bridge:** 1,024,500 tons
- **Total number of steel rivets:** 4,851,700
- **Bridge construction began:** May 7, 1954
- **Bridge open to traffic:** November 1, 1957

Historic photos provided by Michigan Department of Transportation



GET TEXT ALERTS

Sign up for Mackinac Bridge Authority text updates for when the bridge closes and when it reopens owing to weather conditions or other situations.

To receive text alerts:

1. Text "MacBridge" to 67283.
2. Users will receive a reply message verification:
Welcome to Mac Bridge. Reply STOP MacBridge to Cancel. MSG & Data Rates May Apply. MSG Frequency Varies.

Did you know?

You can check bridge conditions before you even get on the road! Visit the Mackinac Bridge Authority online at mackinacbridge.org

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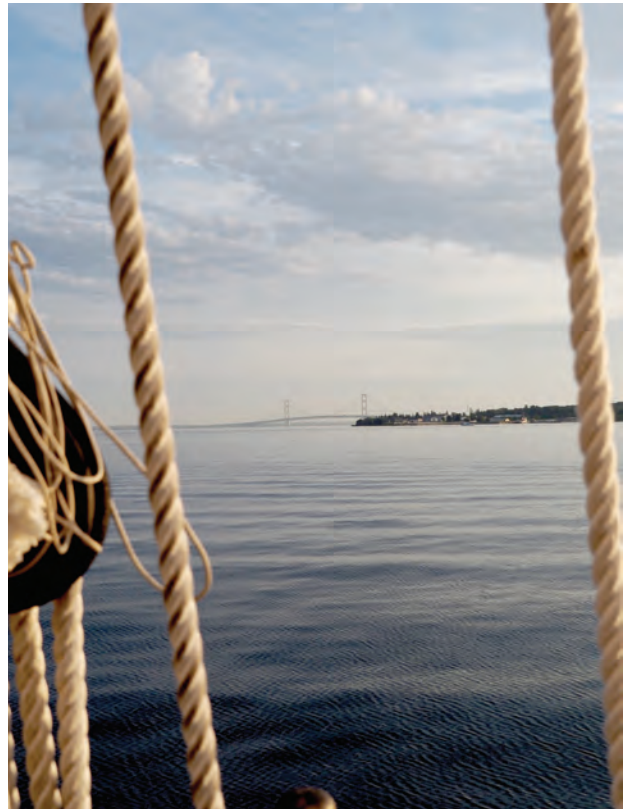
906-643-9150

359 Reagon Street
PO Box 277
St. Ignace, MI 49781

A digital version is
available by scanning
this QR Code
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On the cover:
Sunset at the Wawatam Lighthouse.



View of the Might Mac from
the tall ship *Appledoor*.



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PARKS

AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL PARK



Known as the “red, white, and blue park,” American Legion Memorial Park is the southern anchor to the Huron Waterfront Boardwalk in downtown St. Ignace. The park features the longest stretch of accessible beach in downtown with a view of Mackinac Island and the Chief Wawatam Lighthouse. It also is a popular spot for families with a colorful red, white and blue playground area and cov-

ered pavilion with picnic tables and grills, and public restrooms. Near a veterans memorial and shipwreck preserve monument, a waterfront gazebo serves as a bandstand for musical entertainment throughout the summer.

BRIDGE VIEW PARK



Just west of the Mackinac Bridge toll plaza is the aptly named Bridge View Park. The park grounds and picnic area offer spectacular views of the iconic Mackinac Bridge, and an

on-site telescope allows for up-close views. An enclosed observation pavilion has exhibits inside about the history and construction of the bridge and public restrooms. Picnic tables and grills are also available. There is plenty of parking for passenger vehicles, RVs, buses, and vehicles towing trailers.

CHIEF WAWATAM PARK NAMED FOR THE CHIEF



Chief Wawatam Park features interpretive signage that provides information

about the ferry that serviced the Straits of Mackinac for nearly 75 years. The *Chief Wawatam* was the “largest and most powerful railroad ferry to serve the Straits.” It was named in honor of Chief Wawatam, an Ojibwa man who saved the life of a British fur trader during the Anishnaabe attack on Fort Michilimackinac in 1763, which was part of the greater movement termed Pontiac’s Rebellion. The park also has a splash park, a fishing platform, benches, picnic tables, and a human sundial great for creating hours of fun in the sun. Today, where the ferry once docked, the Wawatam Lighthouse stands as a beacon for boaters in the bay.

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PARKS

ST. ANTHONY'S POCKET PARK



This petite park in the heart of downtown St. Ignace offers an excellent view of the iconic St. Anthony's Rock, a limestone sea stack estimated to have been formed more than 350 million years ago. Native Americans used the rock as a lookout. In the late 1800s, a concert bandstand was constructed atop the rock by the Europeans who had

settled here. The park features benches and picnic tables for enjoying tasty treats purchased from nearby restaurants and ice cream, fudge, and candy shops. The public restrooms on site are open seasonally.

KIWANIS BEACH



Anchoring the north end of the Huron Waterfront Boardwalk, Kiwanis Beach features a sandy shore in a protected section of

Moran Bay, perfect for building sandcastles, catching some rays, and wading and swimming. A gazebo, picnic tables, and a bounty of colorful flower beds round out the park's intimate charm.

LAKE MICHIGAN SAND DUNES



An easy 10-mile drive west of St. Ignace on US-2 brings you to the area's iconic sand dunes. Stretching for several miles on

Lake Michigan's northern shore are wind-swept dunes and beaches of gleaming white sand. Stroll along the water's edge, relax on blankets and chairs with a page-turning summer read, or swim in the refreshing sky-blue waters. Lifeguards are not on duty, but a state-of-the-art rip current warning system has been installed at the popular swimming areas to warn of dangerous rip currents. Additional water rescue equipment like life jackets, throw ropes, and lifesaving rings are also placed strategically along the shoreline at the dunes. Parking is allowed along the south shoulder of US-2. Stay on the paths and be mindful of sensitive plants and nesting areas, which are marked.

2024 SEASON SCHEDULE

Mackinac Island

Fort Mackinac

May 3 - May 31, 9am to 5pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close
 June 1 - September 1, 9:30am to 7pm
 September 2 - October 6, 9:30am to 5pm
 October 7 - October 26, 10am to 4pm
Final admission 1 hour before close

The Richard & Jane Manoogian Art Museum

May 10 - May 31, 10am to 4:30pm
 June 1 - September 1, 10am to 5:30pm
 September 2 - October 6, 10am to 4:30pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close

Biddle House

feat. the Mackinac Island Native American Museum & Benjamin Blacksmith Shop
 May 10 - May 31, 10am to 4:30pm
 June 1 - September 1, 10am to 6pm
 September 2 - October 6, 10am to 4:30pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close

American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum and McGulpin House
 June 1 - August 17, 10am to 6pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close

Mackinaw City

Colonial Michilimackinac

May 8 - May 31, 9am to 5pm
 June 1 - September 1, 9:30am to 7pm
 September 2 - October 3, 9:30am to 5pm
 October 4 - October 5, 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Fort Fright)
 October 10 - October 20, 10am to 4pm (Thur - Sun Only)
Final admission 1 hour before close

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse

May 9 - May 31, 9am to 4:30pm
 June 1 - September 1, 9am to 5:30pm
 September 2 - October 6, 9am to 4:30pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close

Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

May 10 - September 1, 9am to 5pm
Final admission 1 hour before close



DOCK #3 CITY PARK



At the southern end of St. Ignace, somewhat off the beaten path near the U.S. Coast Guard Station, is the Dock #3 City Park on Ferry Lane. Formerly the site of the annual Fourth of July community celebration, the park features picnic tables, a shelter, and restrooms that are open seasonally. Also on site are a boat launch, fish cleaning station, and basketball court, and playground.

LITTLE BEAR SPORTS PARK



Just north of town on the grounds of Little Bear East Arena and Community Center is Little Bear Sports Park. It features two softball diamonds, a fitness trail loop that intersects with the North Country Trail, outdoor stretching equipment that is accessible year-around, and a fishing dock at the pond, which is stocked with perch and

walleye. An on-site concession stand and restrooms are open only during sporting games and other special events.

FATHER MARQUETTE PARK



On the grounds of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture is Father Marquette Park, site of the mis-

sion that Father Jacques Marquette, a French Jesuit priest, established in 1671. He named the mission St. Ignace after St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit religious order. It is also the site of Father Marquette's final resting place. The tree-shaded grounds feature a statue of Father Marquette, a fountain, and the burial site with his remains, which were moved from Marquette University in Milwaukee where they had been for 145 years and reinterred in St. Ignace in 2022. The park and its grounds on North State Street are archaeological sites registered as a National Historic Landmark and Michigan Historical Site. It is also included on the National Register of Historical Places.

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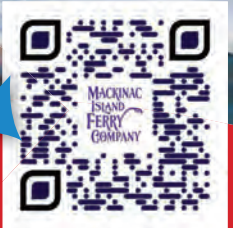
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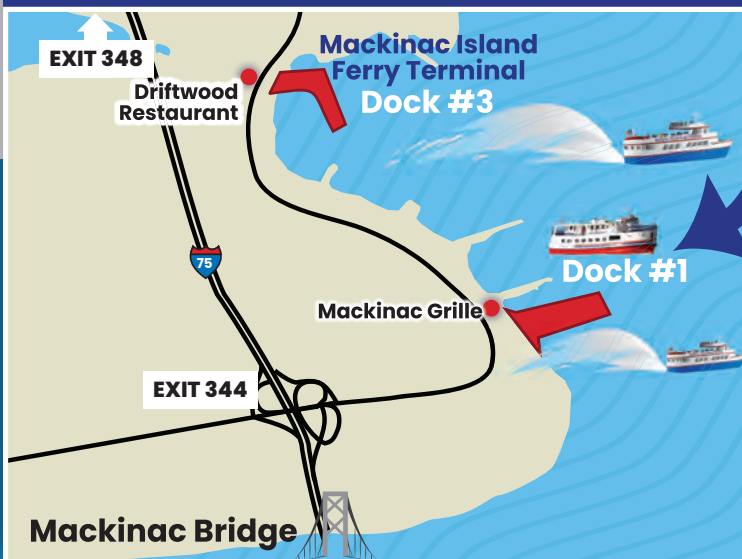
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

St. Ignace area churches graciously invite you to attend their services and programs while you are here.

Glen Memorial Baptist Church

219 Truckey Street, St. Ignace
(906) 643-8608 • www.gmbcnet.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Service: 10:45 a.m.

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church

120 Church Street • (906) 643-7671
www.stigchurch.org
Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

W1934 Church Street, Moran
(One block off M-123)
(906) 643-7671 • www.stigchurch.org
Sunday Mass: 11 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

W4528 Fishermans Drive, Brevort
(906) 643-7870
Sunday Service: 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church

615 W. US-2 • (906) 643-8088
Facebook
Adult Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.

Lighthouse Assembly

260 Bertrand Street • (906) 984-2003
www.lighthouseassembly.net
Sunday Service: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Group: 7 p.m.

Straits Evangelical Free Church

324 First Street • (906) 643-8778
www.straitsefc.org
Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service: 6:45 p.m.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

999 S. State Street • (906) 643-7870
www.zionstignace.com • Facebook
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church of Allenville

W1946 Brevort Lake Road, Moran
(906) 430-2753 • Facebook
Sunday Service: 9 a.m.

GETTING AROUND

TAXI SERVICES Northern Transport and Shuttle

(906) 430-5337 •
transportnorthern@gmail.com

Northern Transport and Shuttle can provide transportation for all your needs while in the Straits area. Advance arrangements may be made by calling Northern Transport, finding them on Facebook.com/NorthernTransportAndShuttle, or e-mailing them at the e-mail address above.

Our Family Share a Ride

(906) 298-2527 •
reservations4ourfamily@gmail.com

Our Family Share a Ride provides taxi service around St. Ignace or out of the area. Reservations may be

made by calling Our Family or via the e-mail address above.

TRAILS/BICYCLING

If you want to ride your bicycle, St. Ignace is a great hub for several trails in the area. Bicycles are also the go-to mode of transportation on Mackinac Island, so you will see riders coming and going to work and the ferry docks.

St. Ignace is the first North Country Trail Association Trail Town in the Upper Peninsula, and it is on the route of several annual bike tours, which means you will be sharing the road with bicyclists. Please be alert for bicyclists and pedestrians while driving through town. It should be noted that there are no bicycles allowed on the boardwalk or sidewalks downtown.

SHOPPING

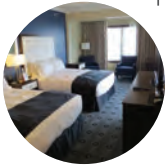


Historic Downtown St. Ignace

Feel the bay breeze caress your face and ruffle your hair as you stroll historic downtown St. Ignace, breathing in fresh lake air scented with hints of chocolate nut fudge! Here you can explore a wide variety of shops and emporiums, a pharmacy and gift shop, restaurants, pubs, and museums that hug the Moran

Bay waterfront for more than a mile. Browse a fine selection of high-end sportswear, work by local artists, and one-of-a-kind souvenirs. Eat ice cream cones, world-famous fudge, and sample a famous U.P. pastie all the while gazing out at the bold blue bay.

Hotels and Motels



North of the downtown business district are many of St. Ignace's hotels and motels. Here you will find another offering of restaurants and shops, including fish and meat markets and an upscale furniture and home décor consignment shop, the hospital, and a pharmacy.

Odds & Ends

If you forgot to pack a toothbrush or flip flops or need duct tape or a lawn rake, two dollar stores and two hardware stores carry what you need. And if you're up for a little adventure shopping,



The Hope Chest Resale Shop on Ferry Lane, a half block from the Family Fare grocery store south of downtown, has gently used clothing for babies, children, and adults, shoes, dishes and housewares, furniture, sports equipment, toys, books, and so much more for perusing and purchasing. You never know what treasures you will find at The St. Ignace Hope Chest. Because the Hope Chest is run by volunteers, it is open limited hours only. For information about hours of operation, visit The Hope Chest on Facebook.

And at the end of the day when your legs can navigate no more, a wide selection of hotels, motels, and condos overlooking the waterfront await your arrival.

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OFF ROAD



ATVs, ORVs, OHVs

When you're ready to hit the trails in your ATV, ORV, or OHV (off-highway vehicle), make St. Ignace your home base. With nearby access to some of the best trails in the Upper Peninsula, St. Ignace is perfectly positioned for off-road adventures. From Drummond Island on the east end to Curtis at the west end of Mackinac County, you'll find hundreds of miles of state-designated trails, scramble areas, and eligible county, state forest, and national forest roads to explore.

Michigan DNR

The Michigan DNR holds two Free ORV Weekends every year - one in June and another one in August. Residents and out-of-state visitors can legally ride Michigan's 4,000 miles of off-road vehicle trails and routes and the state's six scramble areas on two back-to-back days without an ORV license or trail permit. The 2024 dates are June 8-9 and August 17-18. St. Ignace also plays host to several ORV and OHV events every year, including the Trek the Mighty Mac, September 20-22, and the Straight U.P. Jeep Creep, September 27-28.

License and trail permit

An ORV license and trail permit are required for drivers and their vehicles to ride eligible trails in Michigan.



For information about where to purchase licenses and trail permits, visit the DNR website at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/orv-riding>. You may also get interactive ORV trail and route maps, PDF maps, and GPX files on the website above.



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SNOWMOBILING

Michigan's Upper Peninsula has a vast network of snowmobile trails that crisscross the peninsula through state, federal, and private lands and offer scenic views of the Great Lakes, inland lakes, waterfalls, and even lighthouses! State-designated snowmobile trails are open December 1 through March 31, weather permitting.

Trail permits

Some of the trails are shared-use trails and/or have easements across private property. Trails that cross private property revert to private property after March 31 and are not open to ORV use. When there is enough snow, grooming is performed on the trails with many local snowmobile clubs helping to maintain them. Snowmobile trail permits are required and may be purchased online from Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) License Agents and dealers. Visit www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/snowmobiling for more

information and to purchase permits. Interactive and PDF snowmobile trail maps are also available on the website, and you may also download data files in KLM or GPX format.

Several snowmobile-related events are held in the St. Ignace area for snowmobile enthusiasts. The Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum Annual Swap Meet September 21 in Naubinway and the Antique Snowmobiles Across the Mac parade December 7. At this event, antique snowmobiles cross the Mackinac Bridge. The Michigan DNR also hosts a Free Snowmobiling Weekend every February when the public can ride their snowmobiles without the requirement of a snowmobile registration or trail permit.

Where to Park in St. Ignace for Off-road Enthusiasts and Snowmobilers

Overnight parking is available for off-



road enthusiasts and snowmobilers at the trail head in downtown St. Ignace across the street from Little Bear East Arena and Community Center on Marquette Street. Cost is \$10 per day for overnight use. Users of the lot will find a parking pay station on site.

From the St. Ignace trail head, you can quickly connect to the EB Route (St. Ignace to Trout Lake). This route takes you north where you can connect with a series of other trails, including those to Brevort Lake and Newberry/Rexton.

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FAVORITE TRAILS & PATHWAYS

North Country National Scenic Trail

Trailhead located west of Castle Rock and Castle Rock ponds takes hikers along the North Country Trail. *Off I-75 (Castle Rock exit) take Lant Road to Castle Rock Road.*

Cut River Roadside Park

A beautiful roadside park area where you can view the Cut River Bridge and Lake Michigan. Short trails take you down to a sandy beach area along Lake Michigan or along the river. *From the intersection of US-2 and I-75, drive west 24 miles on US-2.*

Maple Hill Trail

Enjoy all or a part of this winding trail between the towns of Moran and Rudyard. Hikers can walk along the Niagara Escarpment, a rare rock formation, or enjoy wildlife at the beaver dam. *From St. Ignace to I-75, take exit 352 for M-123. Turn right onto Charles Moran Rd. Turn left onto East Lake Rd. Signs for the North Country Trail are along here.*

Huron Boardwalk

A picturesque walk along the historic St. Ignace downtown waterfront, connecting unique shops, restaurants, waterfront parks, and museums. Interpretive signs portray the history, lifestyles, and industries of the Straits of Mackinac. *Downtown St. Ignace.*

St. Ignace Rail Trail to Trout Lake

This 26 mile trail is almost entirely within the Hiawatha National Forest. It follows an abandoned rail corridor from St. Ignace north to Trout Lake. The trail passes among woodlands, wetlands, and open green spaces. Open to cyclists, hikers, ORVs, and snowmobiles. *Park at Little Bear East Arena on Marquette Street.*

Sand Dunes XC Ski Trail

A popular destination for cross-country skiers. Trails accommodate beginners to advanced skiers. Groomed for classic style cross country skiing. *From the intersection of US-2 and I-75 drive west 12 miles on US-2 to Brevort Lake Road. Turn right (north) and drive 0.4 mile north to the trailhead on the left (west) side of the road.*

Straits State Park

Within this state park are picnic areas, and observation platforms that offer superb views of the Mackinac Bridge and the Straits of Mackinac. Trails and history of the area make it a popular destination in St. Ignace. *Located on Church Street, in the City of St. Ignace, south of US-2.*

Native Plant Garden & Trails

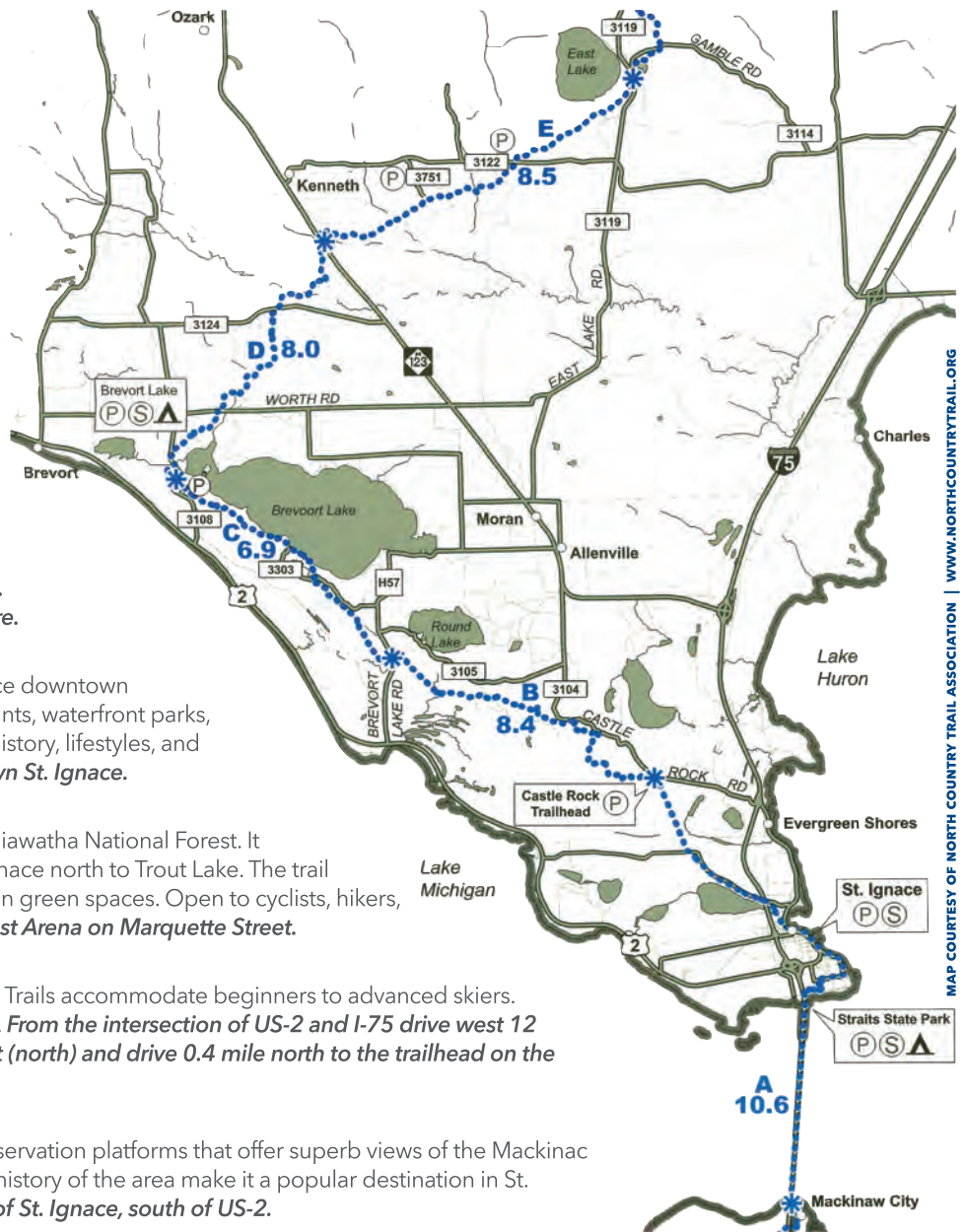
The Hiawatha National Forest St. Ignace Ranger Station is home to a beautiful array of native wildflowers and has three scenic trail loops to hike. *From the intersection of US-2 and I-75 in St. Ignace drive west about 5 miles. Parking lot/driveway is on the right/north-side of the road.*

Foley Creek & Horseshoe Bay Wilderness Area

An often overlooked area of Lake Huron shoreline, this trail system is accessed from Foley Creek National Forest Campground. A 2.5 mile trail leads out to the 7-miles of protected shoreline. *Located just north of St. Ignace, the Foley Creek National Forest Campground entrance is off County Road 320.*

St. Ignace XC Ski Trail

Seven-mile ski trail which traverses woods and some pipeline clearing along a scenic route that skirts four lakes. *Begins across from the high school on Portage Road; ends at Doc Holle's Winter Recreation Area on US-2 and Cheeseman Road.*



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BOATING

Anyone who loves the water and watching boats will get their heart's content in the Straits area. From ferries to "footers" and catamarans to cabin cruisers, you're sure to see them all plying the waters of the Straits of Mackinac.

Freighters sailing the Straits range in size from 500 feet to more than 1,000 feet. The 1,000-foot-long boats, known as "1,000-footers," carry a variety of cargo that includes iron ore, coal, grain, limestone, and salt. Some of them can accommodate more than 70,000 tons in their holds.

Boats that are northbound for Lake Superior must go through the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, a 50-minute drive north of St. Ignace. A viewing stand in Soo Locks Park in downtown Sault Ste. Marie provides the public with an opportunity to watch the freighters as they pass through the locks - and it's free. There are also boat tours of the locks for those wanting a first-hand experience locking through.

"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."

~ Jacques Cousteau

There are several ways to find out when freighters are anticipated to pass through the locks. You can visit www.marinetraffic.com or download its app. The Soo Locks Visitor Center has information on site at Soo Locks Park or you can call its boat



schedule hotline at (906) 202-1333. You can also stop in at the Sault Convention and Visitors Bureau at 225 E. Portage Avenue or call them at (906) 632-3366.

St. Ignace has several public parks and vantage points to view the ferries bound for Mackinac Island. For a unique view of the Mighty Mac, there are ferry trips offered by both Shepler's Ferry and Mackinac Island Ferry Company (also known as Star Line) that make a detour under the Mackinac Bridge before going to the Island.

Another spectacular site to see in the Straits of Mackinac are hundreds of colorful, billowing sails as sailboats race their way to Mackinac Island during two of the most iconic freshwater sailboat races in the country - the Wintrust Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac and the Bayview Mackinac Race, both in July. You will also see a variety of local vessels racing with the wind all summer long, as well as power boats and fishing vessels headed out for a day of pleasure boating and net pulling.




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MACKINAW BOATS

St. Ignace has a historic boat on display in downtown St. Ignace in a viewing building next to B.C. Pizza. The *Edith Jane*, a Mackinac Boat, was donated to the city by the Michilimackinac Historical Society. She was built in St. Ignace in 1899 by the Chenier family who settled in the area around 1830. The boat is made of pine planks with an oak frame and is 19-feet eight-inches long, has a six-foot four-inch beam, and draws one-foot six-inches. She was later converted to power.

SIGHTSEEING TOURS AND RENTALS Mackinac Straits Watersports Rental Co.

For the past several summers, Mackinac Straits Watersports has offered kayaks and jet-skis for rent for guests looking for an on-the-water view of St. Ignace. While costs are subject to change, hourly rentals of kayaks cost about \$35 per hour per person, while jet-skis cost about \$120 per hour per person. For those looking for a more thrilling experience during your St. Ignace vacation, contact Mike for rental availability and current rates at (517) 528-9545.

Mackinac RIB Adventure Tours

A new addition to the water recreation scene in the St. Ignace are is Mackinac RIB Adventure Tours with local Captain Jerry. Join Captain Jerry aboard his RIB (rigid inflatable boat), a former U.S. Navy special operations boat for an unforgettable tour of the Straits of Mackinac. Contact Captain Jerry at jerrythibault@yahoo.com or by telephone at (906) 430-8560 to schedule your tour today.



Sip n' Sail Cruises, Mackinac Island

Hop aboard a Sip n' Sail Cruise to experience historic Mackinac Island and the Mackinac Bridge from the sparkling blue waters of the Straits of Mackinac. While viewing spectacular scenery, you can sip a favorite beverage, chat with friends old and new, and listen to live music or an award-winning DJ. Choose from the 81-foot-long *Isle Royale Queen III* or the 55-foot-long *Robin E*, a glass bottom boat, that offer a variety of cruises running from mid-May to mid-October. Private charters are also available. For more information or to make a reservation, visit www.sipsailcruises.com, where you can purchase tickets online, or call (844) 906-9006.

Shepler's Sightseeing Tours

Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry offers a variety of special cruises in addition to its daily ferry service to Mackinac Island. Choose from night sky viewing cruises and lighthouse excursions for a unique view of the towering structures from the water. For details and more information, visit www.sheplersferry.com, or call (231) 436-5023.





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SALMON

Or if you just want to spend a relaxing afternoon or evening on the water with a cool beverage in hand looking at the sights from the water, there are opportunities for sailing the Straits aboard a variety of vessels (see page 19).

Downtown St. Ignace Fishing Pier at Chief Wawatam Park

S. State Street

Species available include **bass, yellow perch, migratory salmon.**



BASS



WALLEYE

Little Bear East Sports Park Pond

275 Marquette Street

Species available include **perch and walleye.**



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Brevort Lake

About 20 miles west of St. Ignace, Brevoort Lake in the Hiawatha National Forest - a 4,233-acre lake - offers a boat ramp that is accessible at the Brevoort Lake Campground on Boedne Bay. A day-use fee of \$6 is charged.

Species available include **bass, crappies, muskellunge, sunfish, and yellow perch.**



MUSKELLUNGE

Carp River

Approximately two miles from the Carp River Campground is a small boat launch site at the mouth of the Carp Wild and Scenic River on Lake Huron. It is managed by Hiawatha National Forest. Species available include **brook, brown, and rainbow trout, steelhead, migratory salmon, and smelt** in the spring at the river's mouth.



RAINBOW TROUT

The 20-site rustic campground in Hiawatha National Forest on the river, is about a 15-minute drive northeast of St. Ignace. Fees are charged. For more information or to make a campsite reservation, visit www.recreation.gov or call (906) 203-9872.

E.U.P. Fishing Charters

Fish with one of the most knowledgeable charter captains in the Straits area. Since 1987, Captain Dennis has fished for **salmon, steelhead, and lake trout** in the Straits of Mackinac. And as an added bonus, you'll also get an education about the exotic species inhabiting the waters as well as the geology of the area. Fish aboard a 27' Tiara Pursuit. For more information, call (251) 504-1046.



STEELHEAD

St. Ignace Boat Launch Site

99 Stockbridge Street

If you're bringing your own boat, daily launch passes may be purchased at the launch site for \$6. A seasonal pass may be purchased at St. Ignace City Hall, 396 N. State Street, in the City Clerk's office for \$50.

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PARKING

There is plenty of free, off-street public parking in downtown St. Ignace behind our main street, State Street. This parking area allows you quick access to our downtown retailers and eateries, plus ferry lines.

State Street Parking

Two-hour parking is available along State Street. Perfect for quick shopping trip or grabbing a bite to eat or an ice cream cone, this free parking is clearly marked.

City Hall

Parking is available behind St. Ignace City Hall via Goudreau Avenue. This street leads you up to the St. Anthony's Rock parking area and an abundance of free public parking spots.

St. Anthony's Rock Parking Area

Located behind State Street, this parking area can be accessed from Central Hill or Truckey Street, and is convenient for downtown shopping, strolling the Huron Boardwalk, or catching one of the ferries to Mackinac Island.

St. Ignace Marina

Public parking is also available near the marina. This is a great spot to park if you're looking to watch the boats come in, stroll the boardwalk, cast a line, or check out the Wawatam Light and historic *Chief Wawatam* dock, which is now a public park.

EUP TRAVEL TIPS

- Bring a paper map or take screenshots of your map.**
 Cell phone service can be spotty to non-existent in certain areas of the EUP, making it risky to rely on your smartphone alone.
- Bring a fully charged power bank and your charging cable.**
 Roaming and searching for a GPS or data signal can drain a smartphone battery quickly.
- Call ahead and make reservations.**
 We might be sparsely populated, but we are pretty popular. While you may be able to find accommodations without planning ahead, on weekends, especially during our big events, it's risky to just head north without a confirmed reservation.
- Pack for the ever changing weather.**
 Temperatures can fluctuate, especially along the lakeshores. Dress in, or bring along layers. Also, if you're going exploring or adventuring, pack extra shoes and socks in case things end up little more rugged than you planned.
- Bring snacks, water, blankets, tarp, etc.**
 Should you end up stranded in your car, or on a trail, you will want to be prepared to spend a day or even night possibly in the wilderness.
- Get gas and use the restroom when you can.**
 Gas stations can be few and far between once you get into the heart of the U.P. Also, if you think you should use the restroom when you've stopped to fill up, that means you probably should. Not only are gas stations limited, but rest areas are as well.

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The Fish Trolley

930 W. US-2, St. Ignace

The Galley Restaurant

241 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 643-7960

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100 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 643-1500

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RECREATION

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If you want to take the pulse of the St. Ignace community, hop on down to Little Bear East Arena and Community Center where you will find a cross-section of residents and visitors participating in recreational activities and business gatherings year-round. From its fitness center, exercise programs, special activities, NHL-sized ice rink, ample exhibition space, and convention room, Little Bear East has something going on seven days a week.

The on-site fitness center is open 365 days a year from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. And as well as an indoor walking track and weekly fitness classes, the arena also offers roller skating and pickleball. In addition to on-site recreational activities, Little Bear East maintains the city tennis courts on Spring Street and basketball courts on Lake Street and McCann Street.

The seasonal ice rink is up and running from October through mid-March, hosting youth hockey games, hockey tournaments, and open skating sessions. Locker rooms, a concession, and bleacher seating are available to players and fans.



And if you are looking for an unobstructed view of the Saturday night fireworks in downtown St. Ignace, the Little Bear East Arena parking lot provides a great vantage point. Fireworks run weekly July through August.

The arena is the site of many major events such as youth hockey tournaments, youth wrestling camps, banquets, concerts, wedding receptions, exhibitions, and business meetings throughout the

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On the grounds of Little Bear East Arena and Community Center is Little Bear Sports Park. It features two softball diamonds, a fitness trail loop that circles the park's pond and intersects with the North Country Trail, outdoor stretching equipment that is accessible year-around, and a fishing dock at the pond, which is stocked with perch and walleye. An on-site concession stand and restrooms are open only during sporting games and other special events.

Little Bear Arena also offers overnight parking for snowmobile trailers and their vehicles in its overflow parking lot across the street, which borders the city's snowmobile trail. Cost is \$10 per day for overnight use. A parking pay station is on site.

Directions:

From the west/US-2: Follow US-2 into St. Ignace, where it turns into State Street. Follow State Street through downtown St. Ignace, following signs for Little Bear East Arena. Turn left onto Marquette Street. The arena and community center are on the right after approximately one block.

From the north/east: Follow the I-75 Business Loop/State Street into St. Ignace following the Little Bear East Arena signs. Turn right onto Reagon Street. At the stop sign, turn left onto Ojibway Trail and then right onto Marquette Street. Little Bear East Arena is on the right.

For more information about Little Bear East Arena and Community Center and its programs and services, visit www.littlebeararena.com, Facebook, or call (906) 643-8676.

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year. The facility can accommodate large and small meetings and events with professional excellence. Its convention room offers 4,300 square feet and will comfortably hold up to 500 people, but if a smaller space is needed, the room can be divided into smaller two rooms. The arena's exhibition space features 16,000 square feet, accommodating conventions, trade shows, concerts, or other large-scale events, including the St. Ignace Home Show in April and as the headquarters for the Antique Snowmobile Bridge Crossing event in December.

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FOODS



FISH

With Lake Huron to the east, the Straits of Mackinac to the south, and Lake Michigan to the west, it should come as no surprise that fishing has been central to life in St. Ignace for generations. And with several locally owned and operated fisheries in town, you are guaranteed all the fresh fish you can eat! Local favorites include perch, walleye, and trout, but what the area is famous for is Great Lakes whitefish. You will find it on nearly every menu in town prepared using the traditional methods of grilling, frying, or baking, as well as those that incorporate nouvelle cuisine. Keep your eyes open and you may even find whitefish livers on the menu, a prized delicacy.

Another seasonal favorite is smelt, a relatively small silvery fish closely related to the trout. It returns to Great Lakes streams and tributaries to spawn in April. During the spring smelt run, anglers in hip waders stand at the mouths of rivers and streams with their nets and scoop up hundreds of smelt at a time as the slippery, slender fishes make their push upstream to spawn. The fish's mild flavor and white flesh make them a much sought-after menu item in local restaurants and around dining room tables.

PASTIES

The Upper Peninsula is known for pasties (pas-tees) - a traditional meat pie filled with a mixture

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of ground beef, diced potatoes, onion, and rutabaga. The mixture is encased in a half-moon-shaped buttery flakey crust and baked until it's golden brown. Pasties are served alone, or depending on your preference, may be eaten with ketchup or gravy, although Yoopers may roll their eyes if you ask for gravy.

Immigrant copper miners from Cornwall, England, brought pasties to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the early 1800s. The meat pies were portable and made for a quick lunch when working 12-hour shifts in the mines. Pasties were wrapped in newspapers or towels and would stay relatively warm in the miners' lunch buckets or pockets, or miners would place them on a shovel and heat them over a fire. When Finnish immigrants arrived to work in the mines alongside the Cornish miners, they adopted their co-workers' meat pie lunches, and added carrots to the recipe. This is yet another Yooper delicacy you will want to try.

There are several pastie shops in the St. Ignace area that sell hot, ready-to-eat pies or frozen pasties that you may take home and bake in your own oven. You will also find pasties on the menus of many restaurants, or you will find them in the local grocery store in the freezer section.

FUDGE / SWEET TREATS

Visitors to the area are often called "fudgies" because when they vacation here, they usually buy fudge. Mackinac Island, known far and wide for its world-famous fudge, is perhaps the largest purveyor of fudge in the entire state, however, there are several fudge shops in downtown St. Ignace that make and sell the sweet concoction. Fudge shops also offer caramel corn, saltwater taffy, caramels, and Michigan-made ice cream. It's guaranteed that your sweet tooth will be satisfied!

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Rudyard Kipling, journalist and poet

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WHITEFISH

Commercial fishing was central to life in St. Ignace from the last half of the 1800s and early part of the 1900s. Prior to that the abundance of fish made it a food staple for Native Americans and the early European traders, explorers, and settlers.

Today, the Straits area is noted as a premier vacation destination and known for its Great Lakes whitefish. This freshwater fish with its slender, elongated body averages about 15 inches in length and weighs up to 20 pounds. The largest whitefish on record was caught in 1918 off Isle

Royale in Lake Superior weighing in at 42 pounds. The fish is known for its exceptionally fine white meat and mild flavor and is considered one of the most valuable commercial freshwater fish.

Many restaurants in St. Ignace have whitefish on their menus. You may also buy it fresh-caught at local fish markets where they also offer it smoked or whipped up into a delicious whitefish spread. Below is a listing of fish markets and a food truck in the St. Ignace area that offer whitefish. Call ahead or visit their Facebook pages or websites for the types of fish they have available and their hours of operation, as they vary seasonally.



Mackinac Straits Fish Company
109 W. Elliott Street, St. Ignace
(906) 643-7535 / Facebook

King's Fish Market & Restaurant
4035 N. M-123, Moran
(906) 643-1068 / Facebook

Manley's Fish Market
810 N. State Street, St. Ignace
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The Fish Trolley food truck
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MAPLE SYRUP

Who doesn't love homemade buttermilk pancakes with sweet Michigan maple syrup drizzled over them or melt-in-your-mouth maple candies? For generations, families have been making maple syrup and other sweet treats in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. Trees this far north are generally tapped in March with local producers frequently hosting demonstrations about the syrup-making process. Michigan Maple Syrup Association members participate in the annual Michigan Maple Weekend held in late March and early April. In 2024, participating Upper Peninsula maple syrup makers held demonstrations the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, April 6-7.

Maple products from Eastern Upper Peninsula producers may be purchased at St. Ignace retailers, local farmers markets, retailers south of the Mackinac Bridge, and online.

Besteman Maple Syrup Products

15689 S. Tilson Road, Rudyard
(906) 478-5412
www.bestemanproducts.com

Michigan Maple Farms / CDL Michigan Maple Equipment

11866 W. Thompson Road, Rudyard
(906) 478-1037 / www.michiganmaplefarms.com / Facebook
Michigan Maple Farms will show how maple syrup is made only on Saturday, April 6.

Postma Brothers Maple Syrup

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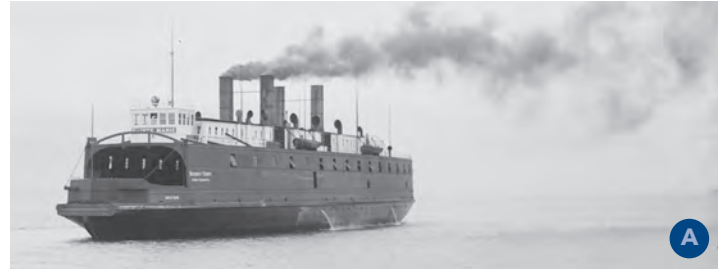
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HISTORY

“Water is the driving force of all nature.”
~ Leonardo da Vinci

The Mackinac Straits region - Center of the Freshwater World - has for centuries been a busy crossroads for people and commerce. Long before the first Europeans stepped upon its heavily forested shores, the Anishinaabe already had a thriving economy, communities, and culture here. They hunted, fished, and foraged the area's abundant natural resources, and had a vast trade network throughout North America using the Great Lakes region's wealth of water-based trade routes - from Lake Huron to the east, Lake Michigan to the west, and along the inland lakes and rivers feeding the basin.



When the first French explorers and fur traders arrived in the area in the 17th century, they used the same waterways as the Indigenous Tribes to further explore the interior of the Great Lakes region and to export beaver pelts procured by Indigenous peoples to buyers in the east. The voyageurs traded a variety of goods with the Indians, including guns, tools, and wool blankets in exchange for the furs, which were then transported via canoe to the northeastern population centers at the time, including Montreal and Quebec City. It should come as no surprise then that the water routes once used by the Native Tribes and voyageurs are still used to transport coal, iron ore,

limestone, salt, and grain on massive freighters to ports throughout the Great Lakes region and beyond. Today, these same waters also provide a host of recreational opportunities in what is now one of the Midwest's premier vacation destinations.

It was in 1671 that French Jesuit priest, Father Jacques Marquette, founded a mission on Moran Bay naming it St. Ignace in honor of St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit religious order. Marquette was an unusual missionary in that he endeared himself to the Native peoples, amongst whom he lived, by learning their languages and



1671

Father Marquette establishes a post at St. Ignace



1683

French Military post Fort de Buade is built
(Location remains unknown)



1912

President Theodore Roosevelt visits St. Ignace



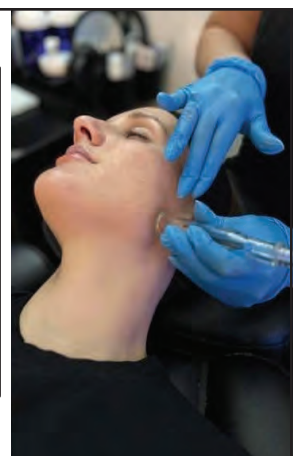
1923

Michigan State Ferry Service established



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customs. And while he was assigned to bring Catholicism to them, he also honored and respected their beliefs and traditions. The rich history and vibrant culture of the Odawa, Ojibwa, and Huron who inhabited the area continue to influence the area to this day.

In 1683, the French built a military outpost in St. Ignace known as Fort deBuade to protect the interests of the fur traders. The area had become the center of the Great Lakes fur trading economy, and St. Ignace had become among the largest settlements in what was then known as New France. It's economic importance was such that the Straits region experienced the rule of three different nations during a 130-year period. When the French were defeated during the Seven Years War, 1754-1763, the British took over rule of the area until the United States took possession of Mackinac Island and Fort Michilimackinac after winning its independence in the American Revolution. However, when war broke out between the U.S. and Great Britain in 1812, the British again took possession of the fort on Mackinac Island, and it wasn't until the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814 that Fort Mackinac was reclaimed by the U.S.

With the decline of the fur trade in the mid-1800s, commercial fishing and logging became the primary economic drivers in the Straits area. The first sawmill in St. Ignace was built in the 1870s, and rail ferry service connecting the rail lines of the Upper and Lower Peninsulas was established in the 1880s. The Martel Furnace Company, a smelting operation that made quality steel, also began production in St. Ignace in the 1880s, further adding to the local economy.

In 1888, all-season ferry service began with the launching of the railroad ferry, St. Ignace. It had a propeller at its bow, which allowed it to break ice ahead of it, opening year-around transportation in the Straits of Mackinac.

Car ferry service across the Straits of Mackinac began in 1923. Drivers wishing to travel to the Upper Peninsula would line up to wait for a ferry to take them across the five-mile-wide strait, which took about 45 minutes. However, during the peak summer season or on opening day of deer season, drivers and their vehicles would frequently have to wait hours for a ferry. But with the opening of the Mackinac Bridge in 1957, the gateway to the north blew wide open. What once took hours to accomplish would now take only minutes, encouraging further development of the tourism economy and introducing generations of a new type of explorer to the area - vacationers.



1957
Mackinac Bridge
officially opens



2006
Wawatam Lighthouse is
installed downtown



- A:** Car ferry *Sainte Marie* traveling the Straits of Mackinac.
- B:** An aerial view of St. Ignace shows the various types of boats needed at the time to transport cargo, mail, travelers, and rail cars between the two peninsulas.
- C:** This dock was the railroad link crossing the Straits of Mackinac; The *Chief Wawatam*, docked here to unload rail cars and cargo from 1911 to 1984. The "Chief Dock" was then converted into a park located in downtown St. Ignace.



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DAY TRIP DESTINATION: TAHQUAMENON FALLS

TAHQUAMENON FALLS

54 miles north of St. Ignace

Tahquamenon Falls, a beloved natural wonder in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is less than an hour away from downtown St. Ignace and an easy and fun day trip. The falls, which are in Tahquamenon Falls State Park, are actually two separate falls - the Upper and the Lower. The Upper Falls is nearly five stories high and 200-feet wide. It is affectionately called "Root Beer Falls" owing to its amber-colored water, which is created by the tannic acid that leeches from the cedar, hemlock, and spruce trees lining the riverbanks. The Upper Falls is accessed through a series of wooden trails, walkways, and staircases that offer viewing platforms. After hiking the park's trails, enjoy a bite to eat and drink a cool craft beer at the restaurant and brewery at the Upper Falls. You will also want to check out the gift shop that's chock full of souvenir items. Restrooms and picnic facilities are also at the Upper Falls.

The Lower Falls, about four miles down the Tahquamenon River from the Upper Falls, is a series of five smaller waterfalls that cascade around an island. The Lower Falls offers swimming and wading in the river. A new wooden bridge and walkways and flat trails are wheelchair accessible and make the island and Lower Falls accessible to everyone. Recent renovations at the Lower Falls include a new restroom building, a concession building, and gift



shop. A picnic pavilion and kayak launch are also available at the Lower Falls.

The 50,000-acre state park has several campgrounds, both backcountry and modern, some camping cabins, and more than 35 miles of hiking trails. Note: Owing to ongoing renovations and enhancements in the park, there are scheduled campsite and trail closures. Visit the Tahquamenon Falls State Park website for details at www.michigan.gov/tahquamenonfalls, Facebook, or call (906) 492-3415.



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The new lock is anticipated to be completed in 2030. For more information about the Soo Locks, visit www.saultstemarie.com, or call (906) 632-3366.





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DAY TRIP DESTINATION: MACKINAC ISLAND

MACKINAC ISLAND

Ferry boat ride from St. Ignace

Historic Mackinac Island, a short, scenic ferry boat ride from downtown St. Ignace, is a place that time forgot, but one you will always remember. In a mere 25 minutes, you will step off the boat into a bygone era when horses reigned (no pun intended!), ornate Victorian cottages were in vogue, and bicycles were the preferred method of transportation - and still are. In the matter of a short time, you're sure to find yourself shifting gears to a slower pace as you wander the narrow streets of Mackinac taking in the great natural beauty and rich history of this unique little Island in the Straits of Mackinac - the "Jewel of the Great Lakes". *Travel + Leisure* magazine even named Mackinac Island the "Best Island in the Continental U.S."

Before Mackinac Island became the premiere vacation destination that it is today, the Island was home to the **Anishinaabek People**. For hundreds of years, long before the Europeans arrived, the Island was a place of gathering for their seasonal fishing and trapping and a regular stopover while traveling by canoe in the region. It was also a sacred burial ground - a place of reverence and honor. The Island's name, Mackinac, is derived from the Ojibwa word "mitchimackinac", which means great turtle. The Indigenous Peoples thought the Island looked like a large turtle emerging from the water.

Mackinac Island's economic and strategic significance was first noted by the French and then the British who used the Island as a base for the lucrative fur trade that existed from the late 1600s into the 19th century. The British built Fort Mackinac in 1780 to control the waterways, but after America won its independence from the British in the American Revolution, Americans took possession of the Island and **Fort Mackinac**. When the War of 1812 broke out between the U.S and Great Britain, the British again took possession of the fort, and it wasn't until the end of the War of 1812, with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814, that Fort Mackinac was reclaimed by the United States.

As the fur trade began to wane, so did the military and economic significance of the Island. However, by the late 19th century, a booming tourism industry began, and the personality of the Island began to change from



military outpost to tourism hot spot. Stately hotels were constructed, elegant Victorian summer cottages began to appear on the Island's shoreline and scenic bluffs, and a few motor vehicles made their way to the idyllic Island. But, after a brief foray there, they were permanently banned owing to the terror they created amongst the Island's horses. The ban went into effect in 1898 and remains in effect. In fact, to mark the 125th anniversary of the ban, the mayor of Mackinac Island, state park director, and even the Governor of Michigan held a re-banning ceremony in July 2023. The primary modes of transportation on the Island today include walking, bicycle riding, and horse and carriage. Residents and visitors alike

frequently choose bicycles to run errands and get around the eight-mile-in-circumference Island.

Several favorite Island destinations include the iconic **Arch Rock**, a natural limestone arch formation on the southwest end of the Island. The 207 step climb up to the arch is well worth it! The view makes the location one of the most photographed sites on the Island.

Other things to do while on the Island, most of which is part of Mackinac Island State Park, include taking a **carriage tour** where you can learn the history of the Island and see some of its most iconic sites and attractions. Visit Fort Mackinac and experience what life was like for soldiers and their families during the late 1800s. The Richard and Jane Manoojian Mackinac Art Museum is a great place to immerse yourself in images of the beauty and uniqueness of Mackinac Island. Stop in at the Biddle House, which features the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, and learn the history of Agatha and Edward Biddle. Agatha was an Anishnaabe businesswoman on the Island - a rare occupation for women at that time. And before stepping off the dock and back onto the ferry to the mainland, be sure to buy some of the world-famous fudge found in many shops on the Island - a sweet reminder of your special time there.

A wide variety of programs and special events are held on the Island throughout the summer, including **Music in the Park** on Thursday evenings, bicycle rides and guided walks led by naturalists, and Shakespeare in the Park. Perhaps one of the most



anticipated events on the Island is the annual Mackinac Island **Lilac Festival**, which honors the history and uniqueness of the lilac on Mackinac Island. The 2024 festival runs from June 7-16, with the Lilac Festival Grand Parade Sunday, June 16. You won't want to miss it!

For more information about Mackinac Island, its points of interest, bicycle and carriage rentals, lodging options, shopping, dining, and a listing of special events and festivals, visit www.mackinacisland.org, Facebook, or call (906) 847-3783.

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DAY TRIP DESTINATION: LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS AREA

Thirty miles northeast of St. Ignace is the 36-island archipelago - the Les Cheneaux Islands. Here you will find one-of-a-kind places, friendly faces, and a sense of time that will slow your paces!

LES CHENEAUX CULINARY SCHOOL & RESTAURANT

186 S. Pickford Avenue, Hessel / www.lcculinary.org
 Opens June 14, 2024, for the season.

The Les Cheneaux Culinary School & Restaurant in the heart of downtown Hessel prepares individuals to work as professional chefs, sous chefs, and culinary experts. The year-long program focuses on farm-to-table fine dining, with all products sourced from local farmers and purveyors where possible. The school's fine-dining restaurant overlooks Hessel Bay and the Les Cheneaux Islands and can accommodate 80+ guests. During the summer months, culinary students complete their education showcasing what they have learned by creating menus, preparing food, and operating the restaurant.

For restaurant hours and to view the menu, visit www.lcculinary.org, or visit them on Facebook for information about special wine paired dinners.

For reservations, call (906) 484-4800.

HESSEL SCHOOL HOUSE - AVERY ARTS AND NATURE LEARNING CENTER

3206 W. Cedar Street, Hessel
www.hesselschoolhouse.org / (906) 484-1333

The creative heart of this lakeside village beats strongly in the old Hessel School House. Built in 1937 through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), it operated as a school until 1959. Today it continues to serve the community with an extensive offering of educational programs throughout the year that include lectures, workshops, and art classes for both children and adults. Also on the property is the Story Book Trail that features a selection of book titles. The books are displayed along the trail and are available for purchase in the gift store. Sales help fund Hessel School House - Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center programs.

The Hessel School House - Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center also hosts the annual Aldo Leopold Festival, which honors Aldo Leopold, one of America's most influential naturalists. The 2024 festival dates are May 29 through June 2. Activities include presentations, birding trips, paddling excursions, orchid and wildflower tours,

and many more nature-based activities.

Beginning in May and running through December, unless otherwise indicated, the Les Cheneaux Farmers & Artisans Market meets every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hessel School House. Visit the Les Cheneaux Farmers & Artisan Market on Facebook to confirm dates and times.

For more information about Hessel School House programming and the Aldo Leopold Festival visit www.hesselschoolhouse.org, Facebook, or call (906) 484-1333.

LES CHENEAUX ISLANDS ANTIQUE WOODEN BOAT SHOW & FESTIVAL OF ARTS

Hessel Marina

This much anticipated annual boat show and festival of arts has been a major attraction in the Les Cheneaux Islands area since it began in 1978. Featuring antique and classic wooden boats, some more than 100 years old, the show attracts about 150 boats. Many of the vessels are owned by residents of the Les Cheneaux Islands and are still used and can be seen cruising through the Islands during the summer season. The show is always the second Saturday in August in the Hessel Marina. The 2024 date is August 10. Mertaugh Boat Works, which anchors the eastern end of the boat display area, had the first Chris-Craft franchise in the United States.

For more information, visit www.lciboatshow.com or find them on Facebook.

MARQUETTE ISLAND NATURE PRESERVES

The Marquette Island Nature Preserves is comprised of the Aldo Leopold Preserve, the Sheppard-Hardy Preserve, the Catherine Sieberling Stewart Preserve, the Kathy Bricker Nature Lover Preserve, and Wilderness Bay for more than 2,000 acres of protected lands and five





miles of Lake Huron shoreline. This northern shoreline of Lake Huron was designated a “Last Great Place” by The Nature Conservancy, a global leader in natural land conservation, in 1973. The preserves feature critical habitats that support a variety of flora and fauna, including aquatic plant species, insects, fish species, and migratory birds.

The Marquette Island Nature Preserves are accessible only by boat (or over the ice in winter). The easiest access to the Aldo Leopold Preserve is at Leopold Landing at Duck Bay. Trails are not regularly maintained, and in many places, they go through dense conifer forests with seasonally wet sections. You will find trail signs for a trail loop about a mile-and-a-quarter-long near Duck Bay, but you can go further up the preserve following old two tracks. You can launch your boat from either Hessel or Cedarville to reach Marquette Island.

For more information, visit www.landtrust.org or visit the Little Traverse Conservancy on Facebook.

SNOWS HERITAGE PARK

207 N. Blindline Road, Cedarville

Snows Heritage Park is behind the Clark Township Hall on Blindline Road in Cedarville. In addition to the park’s mile-long hiking trail are a covered picnic pavilion with picnic tables and an outdoor BBQ, ball diamonds, a playground, tennis and pickleball courts, horseshoe pits, and a new restroom building. The park is the site of several community events year-round.

For more information, visit Snows Heritage Park on Facebook.

GREAT LAKES BOAT BUILDING SCHOOL

485 S. Meridian Street, Cedarville / www.glbbs.edu

The Great Lakes Boat Building School (GLBBS) in Cedarville is the only accredited school specializing in the marine industry in the Great Lakes region. Its mission is to “prepare students for rewarding careers in the marine industry.” The 12,000 square foot waterfront facility on the northern shore of Lake Huron in the Les Cheneaux Islands area offers two one-year-long programs that prepare students to be industry-ready craftsmen and technicians. The opportunity for students to get hands-on and on-water experiences are plentiful. The GLBBS is a Mercury (Marine) University exclusive school. The school offers tours to the general public, but they must be arranged for in advance. They also offer several on-site visit days for prospective students.

For more information, visit www.glbbs.edu, find them on Facebook, or call (906) 484-1081.



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DAY TRIP DESTINATION: DETOUR / DRUMMOND ISLAND



VILLAGE OF DETOUR

The quaint Village of DeTour, about an hour's drive east of St. Ignace along scenic M-134, is perched on the very edge of the mainland of the eastern Upper Peninsula. Surrounded by water on three sides - the St. Marys River to the north, the DeTour Passage to the east, and Lake Huron to the south, the village is known as the "Gateway to the North Channel," and is home to the Drummond Island Ferry, which provides transportation for people and vehicles going to Drummond Island, a one-mile ride across the St. Marys River. Downtown DeTour offers restaurants, parks, boat launches, swimming beaches, summer concerts in the park, a farmers market, festivals, freighter watching, and more. The Botanical Gardens along the St. Marys River feature individual memorial garden spaces, walking paths for contemplation, and benches for sitting and watching freighters slip by.

For more information about the DeTour area, visit www.detourvillage.org.

DRUMMOND ISLAND

Across the river from the Village of DeTour is Drummond Island, dubbed the "Gem of the Huron." Known for its exceptional outdoor recreational offerings and rugged, pristine beauty, the Island features more than 100 miles of ATV and ORV trails, four seasons of fantastic fishing, and the Drummond Island Heritage Water Trail that circumnavigates the island. The trail is 140 miles long and takes several days to complete. The island is also home to a nature preserve and wildlife refuge with hiking paths and a birding trail where you can observe bald eagles, sandhill cranes, blue herons, several species of orchids, and rare ferns.

The Drummond Island Historical Museum offers a glimpse into the lives of the first settlers on the Island - the Indigenous Peoples - followed by the Finns who were farmers, the British, and Yankee settlers. Artifacts include items from the lumbering era, fishing and boating industries, sporting camps, and ferry boats servicing the island. Admission to the museum is free, however, donations are appreciated as they help support the operation of the museum.

There are two golf courses on the island; the challenging 18-hole championship course, The Rock at Drummond Island Resort, with fantastic views from every tee on its 400 acres, and a nine-hole township course built like old style English courses. The Drummond Island Township Course also offers the new sport of Fling Golf.

Fishing on and around Drummond Island is second to none. No matter the season, something is always biting! From the spring runs of smelt into the island's rivers and streams to summer forays where northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass, ciscoes, herring, whitefish, lake trout, and Atlantic salmon could be on the menu. When conditions allow, ice shanties pop up on the bays and anglers wet their lines for perch and pike.

Snowmobilers will enjoy the more than 80 miles of groomed snowmobile trails on the island as well as an ice bridge to St. Joseph Island in Ontario, Canada, when the ice is safe enough to cross. There are also 11 miles of groomed cross-country skiing trails and 12 miles of snowshoeing trails. Lodging options on the island range from high-end resorts and fully furnished rental cabins to tent camping.

For more information about Drummond Island, visit www.visitdrummondisland.com, or call (906) 493-5245.



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