

2025-2026 GUEST GUIDE

Experience



St. Ignace



**INSIDE:
ATTRACTIONS.
LOCAL SHOPPING.
WHERE TO EAT.**

LIVE MUSIC 7 NIGHTS A WEEK

ST. IGNACE

THE SMALL TOWN WITH BIG EVENTS

2025 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 13-16	Labatt Blue Pond Hockey
MAY 9-10	Jeep The Yoop
MAY 24	Native American Festival
JUNE 6-7	Bronco The Mac
JUNE 26-28	St. Ignace Car Show Weekend
JULY 4	Community Parade, Celebrations & Fireworks
AUGUST 1-2	Minis On The Mac
AUGUST 8-10	Heritage Days
AUGUST 22-24	Rendezvous At The Straits Powow
AUGUST 30-31	Arts Dockside Craft Fair
SEPTEMBER 1	Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk
SEPTEMBER 6-7	Antique Tractor Crossing
SEPTEMBER 12-13	St. Ignace Truck Show
SEPTEMBER 19-20	Trek The Mighty Mac
DECEMBER 13	Antique Snowmobile The Mac
FRIDAY DRONE SHOWS	May 9 • June 6 • THURSDAY July 3 • August 1 • September 12
SATURDAY FIREWORKS	May 24 • June 28 • FRIDAY July 4 • July 12 • July 19 • July 26 August 2 • August 9 • August 16 • August 23 • August 30
MOVIES BY THE BAY	THURSDAY June 26 • SATURDAY July 5 • FRIDAY August 8

Weekly EVENTS

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

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
Kiwani Beach, 4pm-7pm



St. Ignace

YOUR HOME PORT.

(800) 338-6660 or (906) 643-6950
stignace.com • info@stignace.com

SCAN QR CODE TO
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ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE ST. IGNACE VISITORS BUREAU.

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INSIDER LOCATIONS

Woods Restaurant

Bobby's Bar

The Jockey Club

Gate House

Mackinac Island Pizza Company

Winchester's Whiskey Bourbon Room

Fort Mackinac Tea Room

Sadie's Ice Cream Parlor

The Jewel Golf Course

Woodlands Activity Center

The Gem Miniature Golf Course

Cedar Grove Bike Track

Carousel Arcade

New 2025 Locations:

Grand Hotel Mackinac Market, Main Street

Mackinac Island Bike Shop



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MACKINACINSIDER.COM

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. 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.

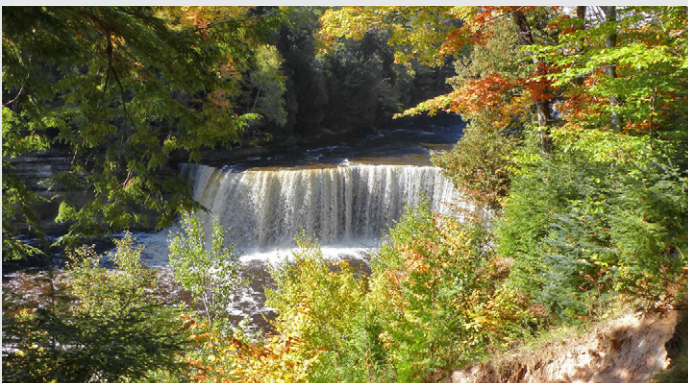
From the Mackinac Bridge to Mackinac Island, Castle Rock to the Mystery Spot, Lake Michigan's sand dunes to downtown tunes, St. Ignace doesn't disappoint. There's a lot of magic here in the center of the freshwater world, and you're bound to fall under its spell!

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.



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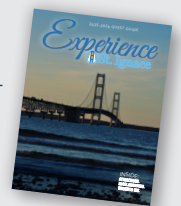
HISTORY

- LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ST. IGNACE

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On the cover: Photo by Kim Ruley



EXPLORE THE EUP

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

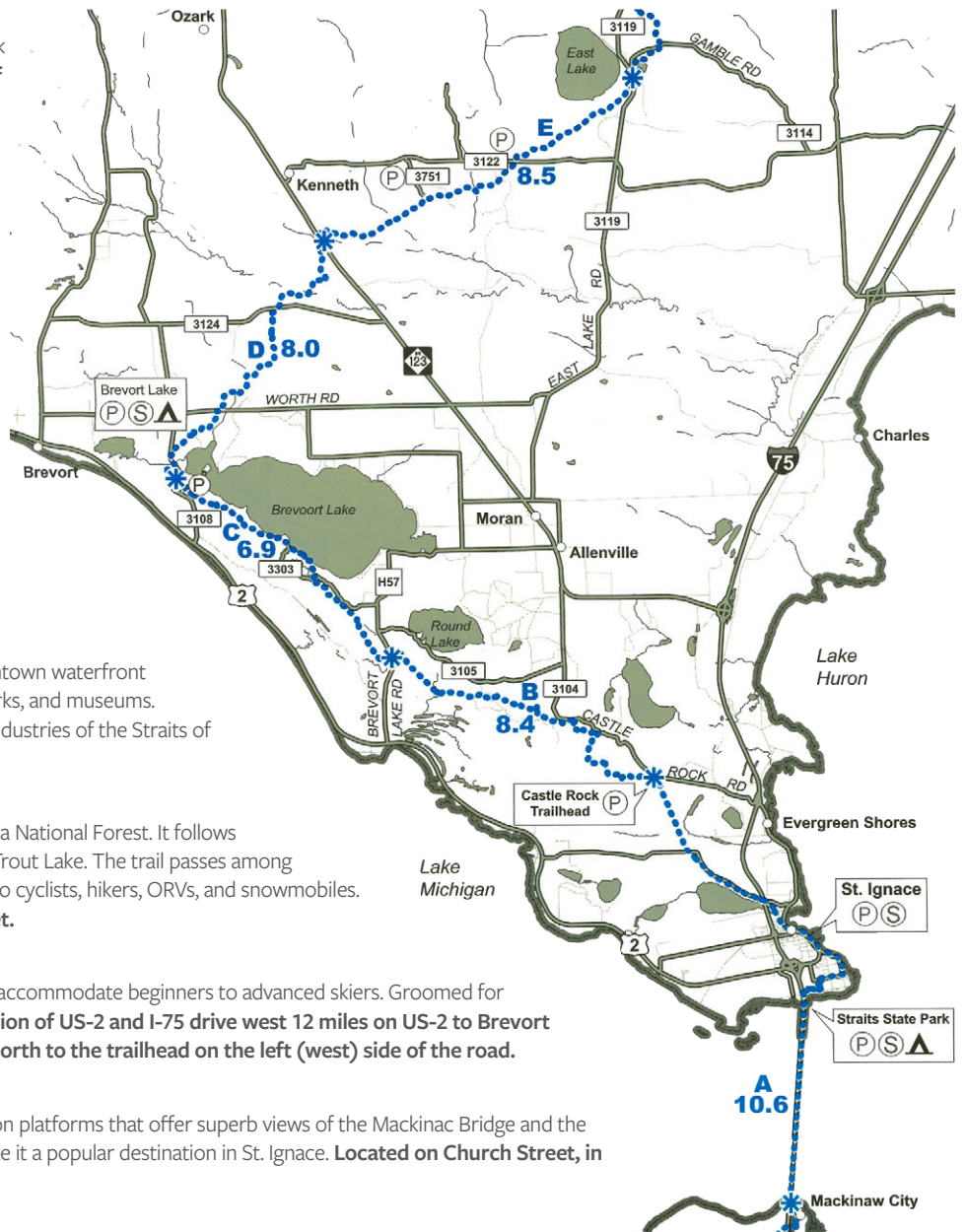
The Hiawatha National Forest St. Ignace Ranger Station is home to a beautiful array of native wildflowers and has three scenic trail loops to hike. **From the intersection of US-2 and I-75 in St. Ignace drive west about 5 miles. Parking lot/driveway is on the right/north-side of the road.**

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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Breakers

resort & beach bar

THE VIEW. THE BEACH. THE CLUB.



There's never enough time to experience all that "Up North Michigan" has to offer. Cross the Mackinac Bridge to historic St. Ignace, the gateway to Mackinac Island and the natural wonders of the Upper Peninsula.



The Club at Breakers is the only hotel waterfront restaurant and beach bar in St. Ignace. We deliver lakefront views, handcrafted libations and chef-curated culinary dishes.

Beachside seating invites guests out day and night to enjoy the view, water, breezes and starry Michigan nights beside our bonfires.



Escape to Breakers Resort and discover everything the UP has to offer! With breathtaking beachfront views, on-site dining, live entertainment, nightly bonfires, and easy ferry access to Mackinac Island — recently voted the best summer travel destination by USA Today — you'll have the perfect vacation at your doorstep.

After a day of adventure, unwind in our indoor pool, hot tub, or your room with a fireplace and Jacuzzi tub. Each room features a mini-fridge, microwave, air conditioning, cable TV, and Bluetooth™ speaker alarm clock. Enjoy free high-speed internet, daily housekeeping, and complimentary shuttle service. Start and end your day with delicious meals at our full-service restaurant, and relax with cocktails by a sunset beach bonfire. Book with us today!

927 N. State Street, St. Ignace, MI 49781 • www.breakersmi.com • (906) 643-7733

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 a 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.



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.



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Safety is the foundation of everything we do. Last year, we invested \$1.35 billion to maintain the fitness of our pipeline network, ensuring millions stay connected to the energy they rely on daily.

We play a vital role in heating Michigan's homes and businesses, fueling cars, trucks and farm equipment, and powering manufacturing. As a diversified energy company, we safely deliver the energy that powers the economy and empowers society.

Tomorrow is on.™



SHOPPING



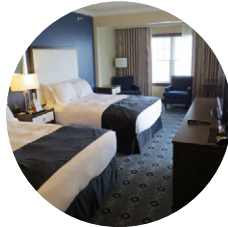
Historic Downtown St. Ignace

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 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 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.

2025 SEASON SCHEDULE

Mackinac Island

Fort Mackinac

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

Historic Downtown Mackinac The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, Biddle House, feat. the Mackinac Island Native American Museum

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

American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum and McGulpin House

June 7 - August 23, 10am to 6pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close

Mackinaw City

Colonial Michilimackinac

May 7 - June 6, 9am to 5pm
 June 7 - August 31, 9:30am to 7pm
 September 1 - October 3, 9:30am to 5pm
 October 4 - October 5, 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Fort Fright)
 October 9 - October 19, 10am to 4pm (Thur - Sun Only)
Final admission 1 hour before close

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse

May 6 - June 6, 9am to 4:30pm
 June 7 - August 31, 9am to 5:30pm
 September 1 - October 5, 9am to 4:30pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close

Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

May 7 - August 31, 9am to 5pm
Final admission 30 minutes before close



RESTAURANTS



B.C. Pizza

277 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 643-0300

Bentley's Diner

62 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 643-7910

The Boardwalk Coffee and General Store

132 S. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 984-6018

Buoys by the Bay Gastropub

30 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 984-2041

The Club at Breakers

927 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 643-7733

Driftwood Restaurant & Sports Bar

590 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 643-7744

Dusty Dogz

416 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 984-2230

The Fish Trolley

930 W. US-2, St. Ignace

The Gangplank Pub & Grub

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

Gateway City Garage

107 McCann Street, St. Ignace • (906) 984-2111

Horseshoe Bay Restaurant (Kewadin Casino)

3015 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace • 1-800-KEWADIN

Hunt's Mackinaw Pastie & Cookie Company

W689 US-2, St. Ignace • (906) 298-5050

Java Joe's Cafe

959 N. State Street, St. Ignace

Jose's Cantina

1101 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 984-2212

Lehto's Pasties

1983 W. US-2, St. Ignace • (906) 643-8542

626 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 984-2144

Mackinaw Grille and Patio Bar

251 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 643-7482

Moose Lodge #999

2999 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace • (906) 643-8785

*Weekly Friday night fish fries open to the public. *Cash Only*

Molly Moo's Ice Cream Parlor

576 N. State Street, St. Ignace

Original Murdick's Fudge

204 N. State Street, St. Ignace • (906) 847-3530

Salty Mac Brewing Company

180 N. State Street, St. Ignace

Sposito's Pasties

1228 W. US-2, St. Ignace

St. Ignace Truck Stop

917 Boulevard Drive, St. Ignace • (906) 643-8333

St. Ignace VFW Post 5114

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

Taste of the Upper Peninsula

W236 US-2, St. Ignace • (906) 643-8643

Village Inn Restaurant

250 S. State Street, St. Ignace • 906-643-9511

The Wild Blueberry Breakfast & Bakery

645 W US-2, St. Ignace • 906-643-1200

Zac & Mac's Chocolate Haus

260 N. State Street, St. Ignace • 906-643-6289

This list may not be a complete offering of all restaurant locations in St. Ignace.

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 makes it a much sought-after menu item in local restaurants and around dining room tables.

PASTIES

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

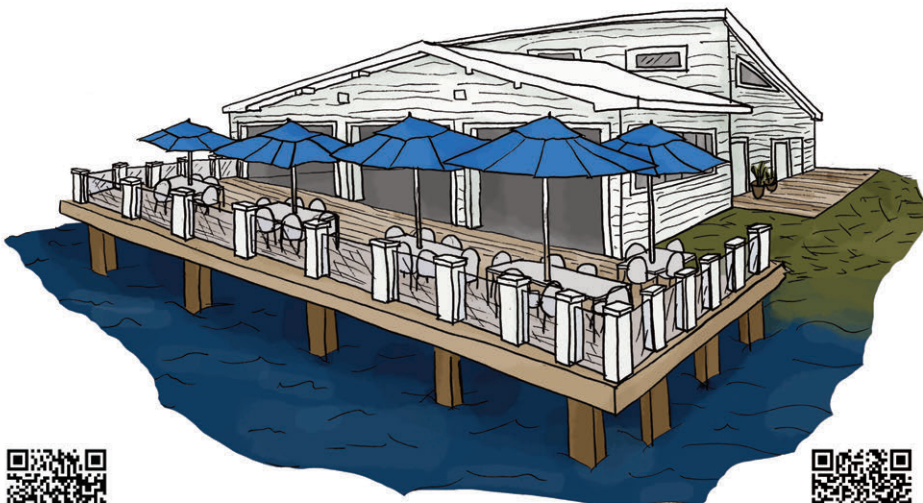


FUDGE AND SWEET TREATS

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!

YOUR GO TO SPOT FOR SUMMER FUN ON THE WATERFRONT!

— THE —
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 LES CHENEUX DISTILLERS



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THE TIPPER ROOM is now home to our friends & local favorite the LES CHENEUX COFFEE ROASTERS!



Scan the QR Code for Menu



DRINKS



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FOOD

WHITEFISH

Commercial fishing was central to life in St. Ignace from the last half of the 1800s to the 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 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 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

Manley's Fish Market

810 N. State Street, St. Ignace
(906) 643-8930 / Facebook

Massey Fish Company

1442 West Road, St. Ignace
(906) 984-2148 / Facebook
www.masseyfish.com

King's Fish Market & Restaurant

4035 N. M-123, Moran
(906) 643-1068 / Facebook

The Fish Trolley food truck

W930 US-2
(906) 298-1246




B.C. PIZZA

OPEN YEAR ROUND
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277 N. State - Downtown St. Ignace
Dine In - Carry Out - Delivery
FAMILY SPECIALS EVERY DAY

Great Selection of Specialty Pizzas and Toppings
ALSO SERVING
Subs, Salads, Pasta, Desserts & Pepsi Products
Enjoy the View from Our Deck with an Ice Cold Beer

WE DELIVER TO ALL MOTELS
Ask for our menu at the front desk

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.



7-8 and August 16-17. St. Ignace also plays host to several ORV and OHV events every year including the Jeep the Yoop! event May 9-10, and Trek the Mighty Mac, September 19-20.

Licenses and trail permits

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 at the website above.

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 2025 dates are June

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 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.

Several snowmobile-related events are held in the St. Ignace area for snowmobile enthusiasts. 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.

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An eclectic shop for all ages, focusing on nature, fiber arts, and family fun in the Les Cheneaux Islands



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The Club House entrance is located on US-2 between the BP Gas Station and Fred's UP North Truck Stop Restaurant

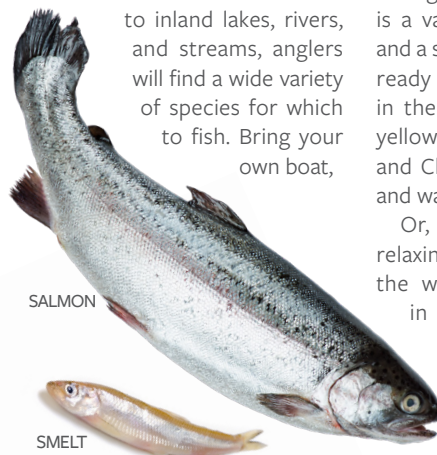
FISHING AND CRUISING THE STRAITS AREA

If you're angling for a good time, the Straits area doesn't disappoint.

From the Great Lakes to inland lakes, rivers, and streams, anglers will find a wide variety of species for which to fish. Bring your own boat,

fish with a local charter boat captain, or try your luck from shore at a fishing pier or platform. All you need is a valid Michigan fishing license and a sense of adventure and you're ready to go! Fish species found in the area include bass, crappie, yellow perch, northern pike, coho and Chinook salmon, smelt, trout, and walleye.

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.



SALMON

SMELT

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.**

Castle Rock Ponds

Castle Rock Road - Exit 348 off I-75, Lant Road to Castle Rock Road

Species available include **yellow perch and rainbow trout.**



YELLOW PERCH



MUSKELLUNGE

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.**

|| 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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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.

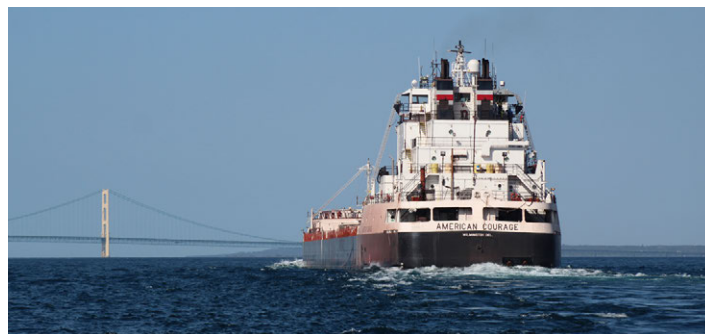
Boats that are northbound for Lake Superior must go through the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, a 50-minute drive north of St. Ignace. A viewing stand in Soo Locks Park in downtown Sault Ste. Marie provides the public with an opportunity to watch the freighters as they pass through the locks

– 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 Arnold Transportation Co. (formerly Star Line Mackinac Island Ferry Company) 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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RECREATION

LITTLE BEAR EAST ARENA AND COMMUNITY CENTER

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 year. The facility can accommodate large and small meetings and events with

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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 two smaller 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.

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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EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA WILDLIFE

The Eastern Upper Peninsula is a haven for wildlife and is recognized by the Nature Conservancy as one of “The Last Great Places” in the Northern Hemisphere.

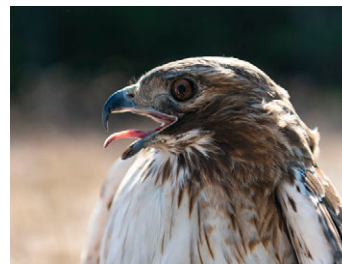
The North Huron Birding Trail has five unique birding zones in St. Ignace, Les Cheneaux, DeTour, Drummond Island, and the Pickford grassland area. Rudyard, a rural town off I-75 between St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie, is known as the Snowy Owl Capital of Michigan. The vast expanses of open fields and various high perches, including power lines, poles, and barns, allow the owls to hunt throughout the winter as they migrate south from their northern homes.

You may be leky — lucky enough to find a sharp-tailed grouse lek in the area of Rudyard or Pickford. The birds can be found at these competitive breeding display locations throughout the year, but especially during their peak mating season of March through June. In



the late fall, you might see a large, dark mass floating in Lake Huron on the north east side of the Mackinac Bridge as you cross. It's not an oil spill or debris, but a raft of thousands of Redhead ducks. The birds spend several weeks here on their journey south to warmer climes at the start of winter.

The Straits of Mackinac is a superhighway for migrating birds, particularly birds of prey such as owls, hawks, and falcons. The Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch holds bi-annual bird counts from Mackinaw City, St. Ignace, and Mackinac Island. Their researchers also band owls and red-tailed hawks in the spring from Mackinaw City, and continue the owl banding in the fall from St. Ignace.



Those by the water at dawn or dusk may encounter river otters, especially when on Mackinac Island. Other animal sightings in the area may include white-tailed deer, black bears, moose, porcupines, badgers, eagles, beavers, and blue-spotted salamanders.

G-Man Entertainment



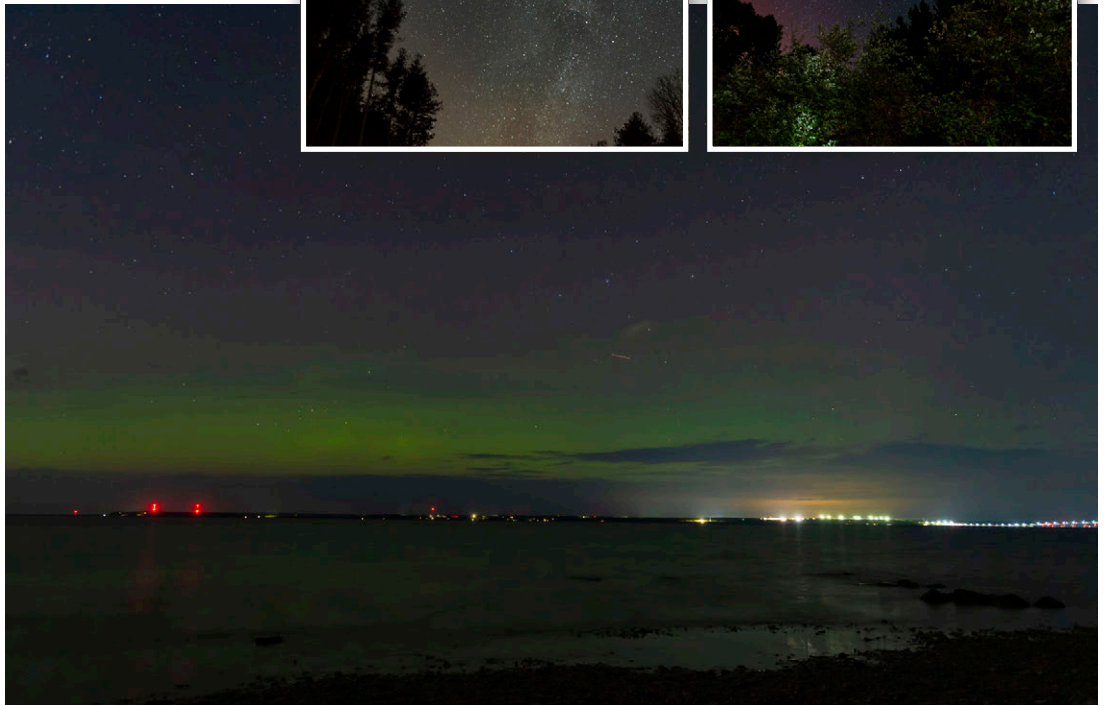
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NIGHTSKY

The Eastern Upper Peninsula is a haven for stargazers. With some 4.2 million acres of forest land in the area, there is hardly any light pollution to detract from the stars in the quiet, dark night sky. The northern lights can often be spotted in the area as well. Below the bridge, Mackinaw City is home to the Headlands International Dark Sky Park. With over 500 acres of pristine woodlands, two miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline, and the Waterfront Event Center, the Headlands is a must visit destination. Access is typically free, though on some busy nights (meteor showers, aurora sightings) and for scheduled events, there may be a fee. Find out more by visiting www.midarkskypark.org.



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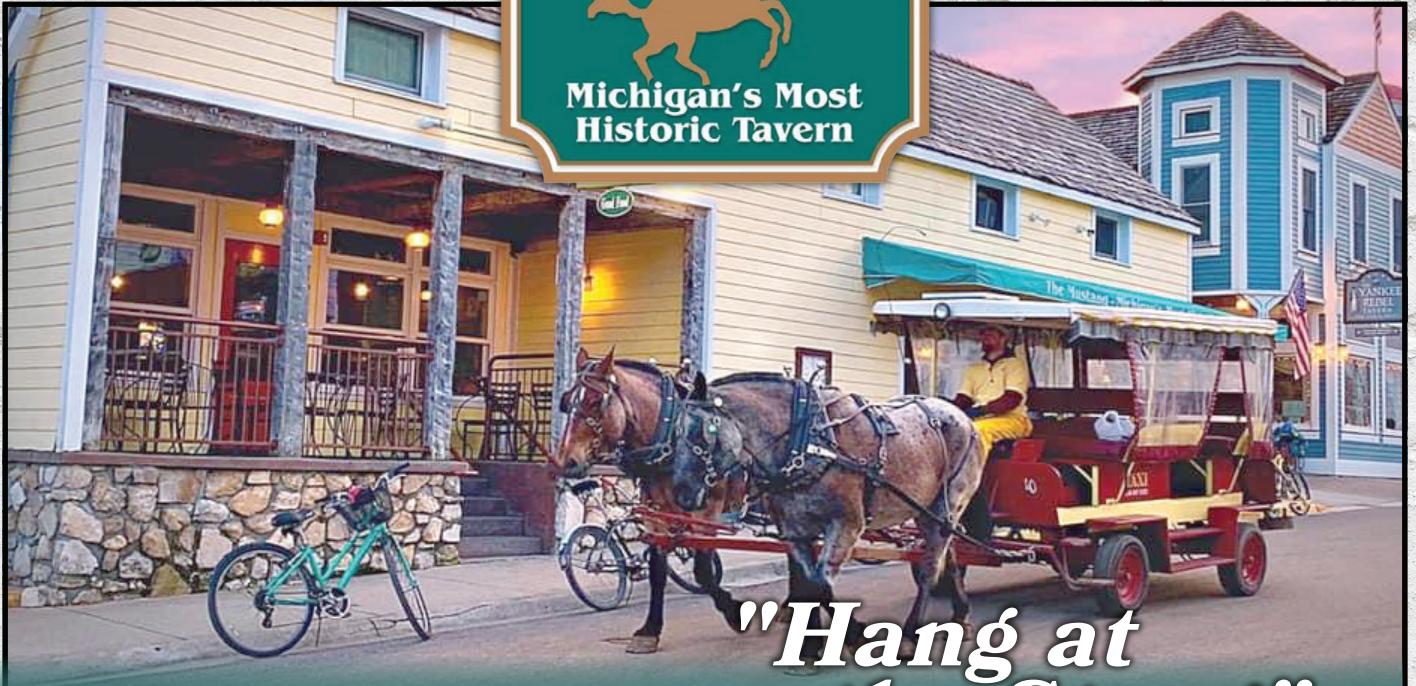
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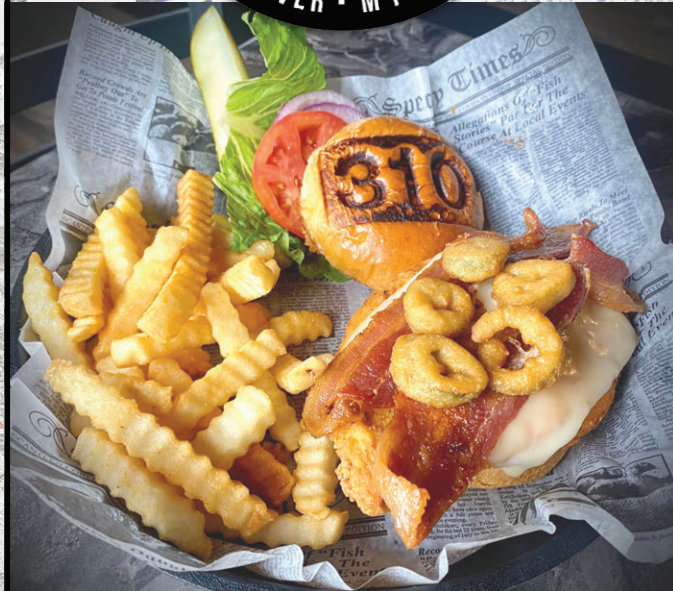
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HISTORY

“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.



Car ferry Sainte Marie traveling the Straits of Mackinac.

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 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.



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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



1957
Mackinac Bridge officially opens



2006
Wawatam Lighthouse is installed downtown

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.

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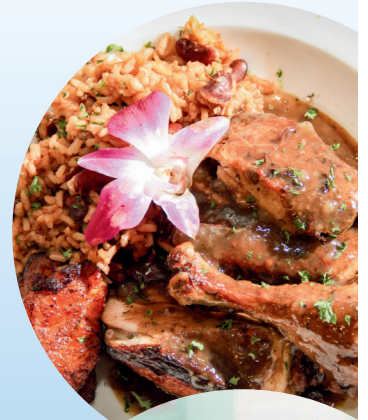
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- Bring a paper map or take screenshots of your map.**
 Cell phone service can be spotty to non-existent in certain areas of the EUP, making it risky to rely on your smartphone alone.
- Bring a fully charged power bank and your charging cable.**
 Roaming 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, tarps, 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, 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 Upper Peninsula. 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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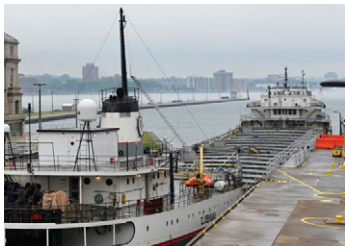
DAY TRIP DESTINATION: SAULT STE. MARIE

SOO LOCKS

50 miles north of St. Ignace

The Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie is a “man-made engineering marvel” that allows freighters and other boats to navigate the 21-foot drop in elevation from Lake Superior into the St. Marys River and to ports of call in the lower Great Lakes and up the St. Lawrence Seaway. A stop at the Soo Locks Visitors Center in Soo Locks Park offers displays about the history and construction of the locks, how the locks work, and information about the boats that pass through them. An observation platform in the park provides a great vantage point for watching the giant freighters as they are raised and lowered. You can also see construction on the new lock that is being built, which will allow for more efficient traffic flow.

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: WEST MACKINAC

U.S. Route 2 is a scenic highway that spans 300 miles across the Upper Peninsula, ending in St. Ignace. Drivers are treated to unimpeded views of Lake Michigan to the south and wilderness to the north. Sections of U.S. 2 are distinguished as a Pure Michigan Byway and are included in Great Lakes Circle Tours in recognition of the coastal beauty along the route. Just about 10 miles outside of St. Ignace U.S. 2 comes up directly against the sandy shoreline of northern Lake Michigan. Find a spot to pull your car over along the highway and break out the beach gear. Walk down the small dunes and set up for a day in the sun on the small, quiet, beautiful beach area.



Travel a bit further west on U.S. 2 until you reach Cut River Bridge and roadside park. Enjoy a hike along the various trails in the park, or venture down to the mouth of the Cut River Gorge. The bridge was built in 1947 and is 641 feet long. It is one of only two cantilevered deck truss bridges in Michigan. You can walk underneath the bridge to admire the engineering and to knock on the

troll door to see who might be home.

For lunch or dinner, continue driving down U.S. 2 until you make it to Moo Fin Fries in Naubinway. The burger restaurant and ice cream shop offers local, grass fed, beef hamburgers, locally caught whitefish, fresh cut french fries, and premium ice cream. Munch on your food inside or enjoy the weather at a table on the front porch.



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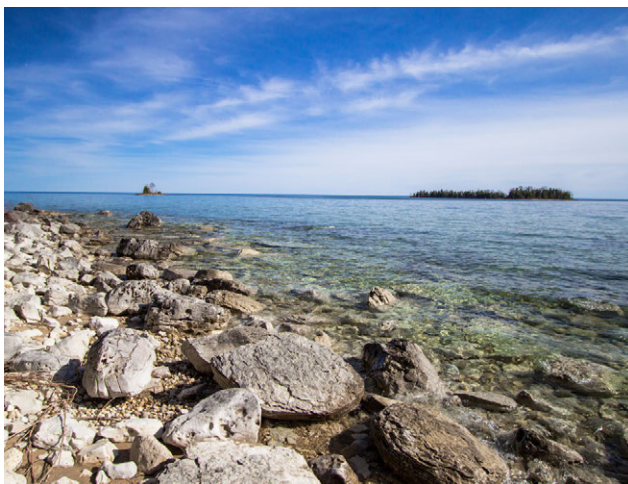
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231-347-3978

DAY TRIP DESTINATION: DRUMMOND ISLAND

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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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” because of 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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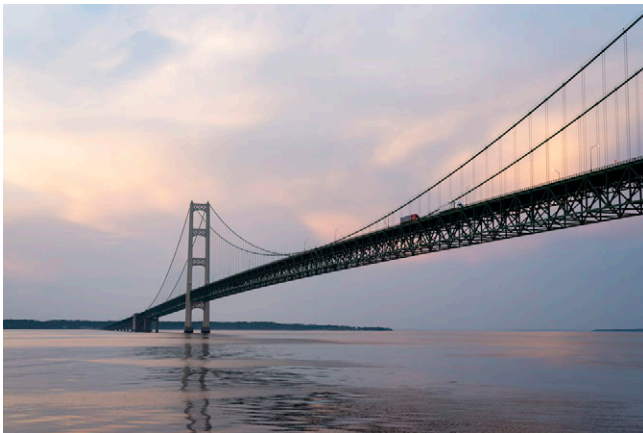
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MACKINAC BRIDGE | THE MIGHTY MAC

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

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

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.



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DAY TRIP DESTINATION: MACKINAW CITY

Cross the Mighty Mac for unrivaled views of the Straits of Mackinac, with Lake Huron to the east and Lake Michigan to the west. From the high vantage point you are likely to see ferries travelling to and from Mackinac Island and maybe even a freighter travelling toward the bridge.

Have breakfast at the Mackinaw City bakery, a locally, family owned and operated business open from May through October and located just off Central Avenue at 110 Langlade St. Try one of their Big Mac donuts, grab an iced coffee, or dine in with some homemade soup or a sandwich on fresh, homemade bread.

Spend some time at the beach skipping stones and wading into the water at Michilimackinac State Park next to Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. Walk underneath the Mackinac Bridge, explore the lighthouse, and stop into the Colonial Michilimackinac visitor's center to plan your trip to the historical site.

Grab lunch at Darrow's Family Restaurant, located on the west side of I-75. Be sure to grab a slice of pie while you're there or take a piece to go.

Take a walk through downtown Mackinaw City to check out the various shops on Central Avenue and in the Mackinaw Crossings mall. If you need to escape the rain or heat, take in a movie at the Courtyard Cinema, open year-round. Get a heaping scoop of ice cream at Mickey's Ice Cream shop on Huron Avenue. Enjoy your waffle cone or malt from Wawatam Park, the Mackinaw City Marina, or Conkling Heritage Park. All are located across the street from Mickey's and have views of Lake Huron and the boats coming in and out of port.



Have dinner and a drink at the Keyhole Bar and Grill on Central Avenue. While you wait for your broiled whitefish or burger with onion rings, try to count as many keys as you can before losing track.

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DAY TRIP DESTINATION: LES CHENEUX 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 CHENEUX CULINARY SCHOOL & RESTAURANT

186 S. Pickford Avenue, Hessel
www.lcculinary.org

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, 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 2025 festival dates are May 28 through June 1. 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.

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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. 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](https://www.facebook.com/SnowsHeritagePark) on Facebook.

MARINE TRADES INSTITUTE 485 S. Meridian Street, Cedarville www.marinetrades.edu

The Marine Trades Institute, formerly known as the Great Lakes Boat Building School, 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 Marine Trades Institute is a Mercury (Marine) University exclusive school. The school offers tours to the general public, but they must be arranged for in advance.

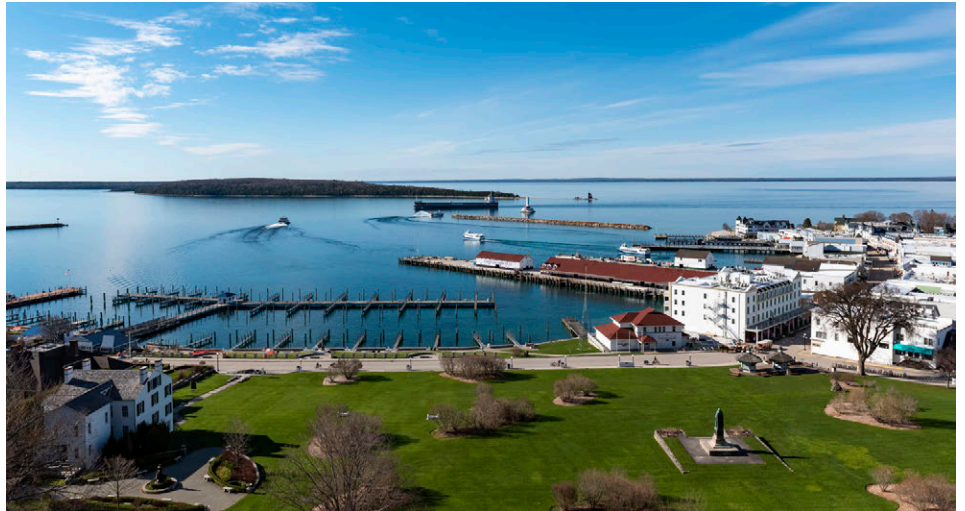
For more information, visit www.marinetrades.edu, find them on Facebook, or call (906) 484-1081.

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 15 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.”

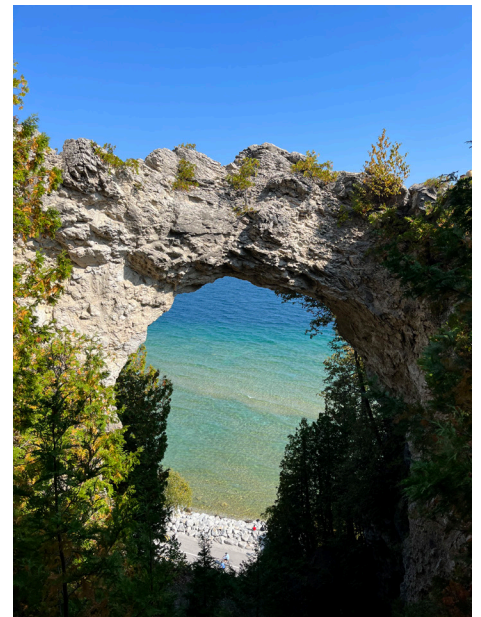


Before Mackinac Island became the premiere vacation destination that it is today, the Island was home to the **Anishinaabek People**. For hundreds of years, long before the Europeans arrived, the Island was a place of gathering for their seasonal fishing and trapping and a regular stopover while traveling 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.

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.

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,

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



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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 Manoogian 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 6-15, with the Lilac Festival Grand Parade Sunday, June 15. 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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