



Mackinac Island Fact Sheet

Tourism

- Tourism is Michigan's second largest industry
- Mackinac Island attracts nearly one million visitors each year
- Personal vehicles were banned in 1895 in order to protect the health of the Island horses and residents. This ban remains in effect today with only emergency vehicles permitted (fire truck, police car). Special permits are allowed on a per need basis by Mackinac Island City Council for the use of construction and other heavy use vehicles for building or improvement projects (foundations, road repair, etc.).

Awards & Accolades

- Named by *Conde Nast Traveler* (November 2005) Top Ten "The Best in the World" under North American Islands, also (December 2001) Top Ten "World's Best Temperate Islands" and in July 1999 as being among the "World's Twenty Most Beautiful Islands"
- Named in Patricia Schultz's book "1,000 Places to See Before You Die"
- The Lilac Festival as been named as on the top 100 destinations by The American Bus Association repeatedly.
- Best car free zones in the world by Carbusters Magazine and www.carbusters.org
- Mackinac Island voted one of the top ten dog friendly resorts by www.dogfriendly.com and by *National Geographic Kids Magazine*.

2006 Key Events

- Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce's Mackinac Policy Conference (June 3-5)
- Lilac Festival (June 9-18)
- Fudge Festival (August 26-5-27)
- Fourth of July Celebrations
- Port Huron to Mackinac yacht race (July 15-19)
- Chicago Race to Mackinac (July 22-26)
- Festival of the Falling Leaves Moon (September 22-24)
- Destination Dream Wedding Weekend/Somewhere in Time Weekend (Oct. 13-15)

Lodging

- Mackinac Island has 45 accommodation properties totaling more than 2,000 rooms
- Visitors will find accommodations ranging from economical to extravagant

Dining

- Island dining can be found in more than 40 places to dine on Mackinac Island
- Regional menu favorites include planked whitefish, perch, angus beef, buffalo, venison medallions, salads made with regional ingredients and pasties

Fudge

- Fifteen fudge stores operate on Mackinac Island
- Murdick's Candy Kitchen was the first fudge shop to open on Mackinac Island (late 1880s)
- May's Fudge made Mackinac Island Fudge famous and turned fudge into a spectator sport.

Transportation

- Three ferry lines service Mackinac Island (Arnold Transit Company, Shepler's and Star Line)
- Motorized vehicles have been banned on the Island since 1898

Horses

- There are over 600 horses on the Island during the summer season and about 20 during the winter months
- Breeds include Belgian, Clydesdale, Irish Hackney, Percheron, Standard-Bred and other combinations
- Carriage Tours, Inc. provides the Islands more than 400 work horses

Natural Attractions

- Mackinac Island is 2200 acres in size: two miles wide, three miles long and eight miles around
- Mackinac Island State Park
 - Arch Rock- limestone formation nearly 150 feet tall
 - Devil's Kitchen- limestone cavern created by the effects of erosion and cedar-root displacement
 - Sugar Loaf- limestone bluff, cone shaped rising 75 feet

Architectural Influences

- Native American: Bark Chapel-Marquette Park
- French Colonial: McGulpin House, Biddle House, Ambrose Davenport Farmhouse
- English: Benjamin Blacksmith House
- Military: Fort Mackinac, Fort Holmes
- Federalist: Indian Dormitory- Marquette Park, Stuart House and Museum, Bay Cottage, Mission Church
- Irish-Little Stone Church
- Victorian Era: Stick Style, Arts & Crafts, Queen Anne, etc. (characterized by turrets, elaborate porches, stained and leaded glass windows, carved wood ornamentation and carriage houses): Grand Hotel, St. Anne's Catholic, Governor's Mansion, East/West Bluff Cottages, Anne Cottage, Windermere Hotel, Brigadoon Cottage

Other

- Mackinac Island maintains 500 year-round residents
- There are no corporations/chains on Mackinac Island only privately held and owned businesses
- Mackinac Island has provided the setting for two popular films; *This Time for Keeps* and *Somewhere in Time*

Contact:

Mary McGuire Slevin
Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau
800-454-5227
director@mackinacisland.org