

Brief History of Mackinaw City

Native Americans

Remains of 3,000-year-old fishing communities have been found along Mackinaw City's northeast shoreline from Colonial Michilimackinac to the Maritime Park. These earliest Mackinaw City residents lived a maritime existence based on subsistence fishing in the summer and a retreat to southern Michigan during the winter.



French

In 1715 the French, the first white residents of Mackinaw City, founded Fort Michilimackinac. This military trading post was the repository for furs collected from the watershed of the western Great Lakes. Here the lucrative cargo was rebundled before being shipped to Montreal and, finally, to the European market.

English

At the end of the French and Indian War, in 1761, the victorious British took control of the fort and fur trade. In less than 20 years the Revolutionary War made the local garrison nervous and the fort was moved to a better defensive position on Mackinac Island.

Americans

Cincinnati businessman Edgar Conkling renewed interest in the area when he platted Mackinaw City in 1857. The Civil War delayed his development plans but in 1881 the arrival of railroads finally brought economic growth. Lumbering, fishing, tourism, railroads and ferries built the economy. Now Mackinaw City is a tourism and fishing community.

Today

Mackinaw City is a village with a year-round population of around 900 which swells in the summer to around 15,000. This area is routinely rated the #1 tourist destination in Michigan. The village is surrounded by countless recreational opportunities: hiking, bicycling, fishing, boating, camping, hunting, sailing, swimming, skiing, ice fishing, and snowmobiling. But most popular of all is stone skipping! Residents and visitors enjoy Mackinaw summer, fall, winter or spring.

Living History - Making History

We invite you to discover the history and character of Mackinaw City on our 3-mile Historical Pathway. The scenic Straits of Mackinac and the breathtaking Mackinac Bridge provide a beautiful backdrop to our historic markers. Learn about Mackinaw City's past as "The Crossroads of the Great Lakes."



Historical Kiosk Tour

Explore all of our historic kiosks by following the numbered trail. Our Historical Pathway starts at the cobblestone municipal building on the corner of Central Avenue and Huron Street. Go south on Huron to the State Dock, then wind back north along the shoreline of the Straits of Mackinac to Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse and Fort Michilimackinac. Finish your tour by strolling down Nicolet Street and Central Avenue, where you can explore the village's business district.

Mackinaw City Audio Tour

You can hear about additional historical and natural features in Mackinaw City by using our free cell phone tour. There are tour locations along the Historical Pathway, at the Icebreaker Mackinaw, and on the west side of town at the Historic Village, Headlands, and McGulpin Point Lighthouse. Dial
231-486-0003

and listen for instructions. Photos and a map of the audio tour locations and a download of the audio content can be found at

<http://MyOnCell.mobi/12314860003>

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our fascinating history and hear "the rest of the story." We hope your stay is the best it can possibly be!

For more information contact:

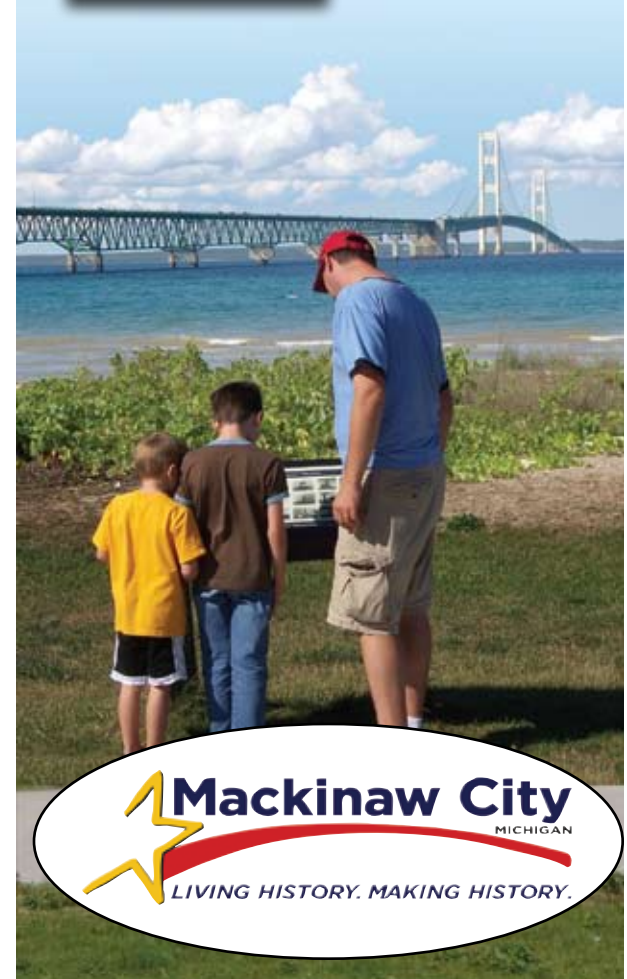
Village of Mackinaw City 231-436-5351
www.mackinawcity.org

Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce 231-436-5574
www.mackinawchamber.com

Mackinaw City Visitors Bureau 231-436-5664
www.mackinawcity.com

Emergency dial 911

MACKINAW CITY HISTORICAL PATHWAY MAP & GUIDE



Mackinaw City Historical Pathway

Historical Markers = ● Additional audio available



- 01 Mackinaw, Mackinac, or Michilimackinac? ●
- 02 Colonial Boat Yard 1761-1781
- 03 Auto Ferries ●
- 04 Michigan State Car Ferries & Ferry System
- 05 NOAA Lake Level Information Station ●
- 06 Mill Creek ●
- 07 Ice Harvesting ●
- 08 Commercial Fishing
- 09 Cutter Mackinaw & Railroad Dock
- 10 Railroad Ferries
- 11 The Iron Horse at Mackinaw
- 12 Mackinaw's Civil War Cannons ●
- 13 The Algomah
- 14 Mackinaw City
- 15 Mackinac Island Passenger Ferries
- 16 Mackinaw's First Business District
- 17 Mackinac and the Water Highway
- 18 A Bridge for Mackinaw
- 19 Mackinaw Boat, Mackinaw Coat
- 20 The Lumbering Era at Mackinaw
- 21 Building the Mackinac Bridge ●
- 22 Historic Events at the Straits
- 23 Crossroads of the Great Lakes
- 24 Shipwrecks at the Straits
- 25 Marine and Weather Reporter ●
- 26 Graveyard of the Deep
- 27 Island Hopping the Straits
- 28 Fog Signal Station ●
- 29 Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse
- 30 Lighthouses of the Mackinac Straits ●
- 31 Building Mighty Mac ●
- 32 Fort Michilimackinac & State Park
- 33 Fort Michilimackinac 1715-1781 ●
- 34 Michigan's First Jewish Settler
- 35 The Colonial Suburbs 1765-1781
- 36 Laurel Fishing Village
- 37 Missionaries at Mackinac
- 38 Indians at the Straits ●
- 39 British Colonial Farm 1774-1780
- 40 French House Ruin, 1765-1781
- 41 A New Look for Mackinaw City
- 42 Tourism at Mackinac ●
- 43 Winter at Mackinac
- 44 Historic Mackinaw City
- 45 Historic Mackinaw City ●
- 46 The Dixie Highway

Historic Figure Woodcarvings by Jerry Prior

47. Edgar Conkling ●
48. Chief Wawatam ●
49. Alexander Henry
50. Perry Darrow
51. Major Arent Schuyler Depeyster
52. Hattie Stimpson

To hear these signs, call the audio tour at 231-486-0003 and key in the matching audio stops 901-952



Visit the web address in this QRCode to download the entire audio tour plus photos and audio tour map (download a free app from i-nigma or other QRCode app provider)