



# TRAVEL TIPS: Mackinac Island

Mackinac Island is a unique place, between Michigan's two peninsulas, surrounded by water with no bridge to the mainland, and no vehicles on the island. With this comes some unique travel preparations. MAFP has compiled some travel tips to help with your planning and ensure smooth sailing.

**TRAVEL TIP:** Either way it's spelled, Mackinac or Mackinaw, it's pronounced **mack-in-awe**.



## Getting to Northern Michigan

**By Plane:** Book a flight to Pellston Regional Airport (PLN). In 2025, Delta and United offered flights to Pellston. Book early as flights sell out. Pellston Regional Airport is 20 minutes south of Mackinaw City. Other airport options include Chippewa County International Airport (CIU), 30 minutes north of St. Ignace in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Traverse City Airport (TVC), 2 hours south of Mackinaw City.

**By Car:** Drive to Mackinaw City to board the ferry. Mackinaw City is approximately 4.5 hours from Detroit, 4 hours from Grand Rapids, and 3.5 hours from Lansing.



## Getting to Shepler's Ferry Dock

**From the Airport:** Take a shuttle from the airport to Shepler's Ferry Dock in Mackinaw City. The Pellston Regional Airport website lists shuttle options: <https://emmetcounty.org/services/transportation.php>

**TRAVEL TIP:** Rideshare services are not available in this area. If you fly into a different airport, such as CIU in the Upper Peninsula, you will need to book transportation to the Shepler's Ferry Dock in St. Ignace.

**By Car:** Drive and park at Shepler's Ferry Dock. An unloading zone is available for luggage and a couple of differently priced parking options are available for you to choose from.



## Getting to Mackinac Island

Book Shepler's Ferry to Mackinac Island, departing from Mackinaw City (unless you're coming from the Upper Peninsula). Buy tickets in advance to skip lines—your return-trip fare is included, but only the departure date is required. Check the ferry schedule before booking your return flight, allowing at least 2 hours to reach the airport. MAFP will provide a ferry discount code for conference attendees.

**TRAVEL TIP:** If you're staying at The Grand Hotel, hotel staff will handle your luggage from the mainland dock to your room—allow up to 3 hours. The same applies for your return. Guests at other hotels may need to transport their own luggage from the island ferry dock to their hotel.



## Getting to The Grand Hotel

Once you arrive on Mackinac Island, it is about a 10 to 15 minute walk up to The Grand Hotel. Or you can take a horse and carriage taxi from the ferry dock. There are no vehicles allowed on Mackinac Island.

**TRAVEL TIP:** Bring cash with you for horse and carriage taxis, or other services on the island.



Visit [www.mackinacisland.org](http://www.mackinacisland.org) for more information, helpful tips, travel guides, and recommendations. Email [info@mafp.com](mailto:info@mafp.com) if you have specific questions or need additional information.

