



While unlikely, events are subject to change, please cross check www.mackinacisland.org/events.html. New events are also posted regularly.

April

This is the time of year when the ice breaks in the straits of Mackinac, fog fills the air, leaves start to hint at spring, snow melts and the ferry companies resume service. The magnificent fleet of Mackinac Island horses leave their winter retreats in the Upper Peninsula and start their return to the Island on the Arnold Line Ferry. Visitors can expect a quiet but coming back to life Mackinac Island. Grand Hotel's early opening has become one of the most favored times of year for the Geocacher fans and teachers looking for respite and renewal.

April 23 Grand Hotel Early Opening

Come and experience Grand Hotel during an Early Season Opening, April 23 -May 4, 2010. Rooms in the Millennium Wing will be available for \$175* per room per night and the four bedroom Masco Cottage will be available for \$800* per night. A complimentary breakfast along with a hotel tour will also be included.

May

During the month of May we are thankful for the influx of seasonal workers, the daily opening of businesses become events in themselves. The Grand Hotel gardens come to life and the 600 horses that call Mackinac home, venture back to the Island day after day. Tour groups and students studying Great Lakes History abound and the smell of fudge made fresh daily after a long winter again fills the air.

May 5 Cinco de Mayo

Commemorating the Mexican victory over the French at the Battle Of Puebla on May 5, 1862, Mexican soldiers had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year, allowing the United States to build a great army, which smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the battle of Puebla. This battle essentially ended the Civil War. Horn's Bar celebrates Cinco de Mayo each year with delicious Mexican food, frosty libations and great music.

May 7-9 Mother's Day Weekend at Grand Hotel

Package includes accommodations for up to 5 people, breakfast and dinner daily, Friday evening welcome reception, Saturday cooking demonstration, Mother's Day Grand Luncheon Buffet, free golf greens fees, discounted ferry tickets all for \$649 per room.

May 22 Zoo de Mack Bike Bash

The Zoo-De-Mack is a weekend of huge parties with great bands, one of the most scenic bicycle rides in the country, views of the mighty Mackinac Bridge, and one magical island.

May 29-31 AAA Memorial Day Weekend at Grand Hotel

Relax in style with breakfast and dinner daily, a Saturday evening welcome reception, Sunday evening reception, free golf greens fees, discounted ferry tickets and a gorgeous one of a kind room at historic Grand Hotel.

May 31 Memorial Day Observed

Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in the military service. First enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War, it was expanded after World War I. Mackinac Island's American Legion Post honors Mackinac Island's soldiers who have served our country. Veteran's Memorial on Market Street, time TBA.

June

May showers bring June Flowers on Mackinac Island and this month is the blooming season in the state park with trillium, daffodils, lady slippers and our icon, the genus syringa, better known to all as the Lilac. The annual Lilac Festival kicks off the second week of June and it is a fragrant and beautiful time of year.

June 2-5 Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce Mackinac Policy Conference

Grand Hotel is the perfect place to be to get involved in the dialogue of change among top business professionals, legislative leaders, corporate CEOs, entrepreneurs, young professionals and veteran regional champions to remake Michigan. The Detroit Regional Chamber is the largest chamber of commerce in the United States and this conference will continue its work in executing a vision for a new, sustainable state. Registration begins each February, for hotel availability, [click here](#).

June 11-20 61st Annual Mackinac Island Lilac Festival www.mackinacislandlilacfestival.org

Celebrating Mackinac's lilac collection began in 1949 with a parade dubbed Lilac Sunday. What began as a one day event called the Mackinac Island Lilac Day has blossomed into a ten day festival and features the crowning of the queen, Lilac Festival 10K run, line dancing in the streets, broom stick hockey, wine tastings, walk and talk with lilacs, blessing of the animals, A Taste of Mackinac, garden tours and parties, concerts, Epona & Barkus Parade, Mackinac Island Dog & Pony Show and the finale, the Grand Parade.

June 25-27 Grand Hotel Arts Weekend

Enjoy accommodations at Grand Hotel with performances and seminars throughout the weekend including breakfast and dinner daily and evening receptions on Friday and Saturday.

July

Its all about summer fun during the month of July. With the two largest freshwater yacht races in the world ending at Mackinac Island, the Island turns into a sailor's paradise. The annual Festival of the Horse kicks in at the month's end to celebrate our God's gift to mankind and certainly God's gift to Mackinac Island....the horse.

July 4 Old Fashioned Mackinac Fourth of July Celebration

Take part in the annual Stonescaping event at Windermere Point, test your climbing skill on the greasy pole climb with Mackinac Island's firefighters and enjoy fun games with the kids. Feast at the All American Picnic hosted by Fort Mackinac and catered by Grand Hotel on the parade grounds at Fort Mackinac, featuring sumptuous BBQ ribs, chicken, salads, corn on the cob and more traditional American fare. The Fireworks at start at dusk....on the water on the west shoreline between Windermere Point and Grand Hotel.

July 9-11 Wine Appreciation Weekend at Grand Hotel

Aficionados of the grape will love this weekend. Accommodations include breakfast and dinner daily, Friday evening welcome reception, Saturday afternoon wine tasting seminar, Saturday evening Grand cocktail reception, special dinner on Saturday evening with select wines and cordials and discounted ferry tickets.

July 17-20 Annual Bay View to Mackinac Yacht Race

Recognized as one of the most challenging freshwater sailing races in the world, the Bay View Yacht Club of Port Huron organizes this great adventure each year. Welcome over 200 sailboats to Mackinac Island to the finish line and celebrate with the Great Lake's most proficient sailors.

July 23-25 Annual Mac Man (Mackinac to Manitoulin) Yacht Race

The 'Mac Man' is a competitive racing/cruising event that offers a spinnaker/gennaker division for serious competitors, a whitesail class for those who don't want the fuss of a spinnaker and a double handed class for those couples or friends who are into the added challenge. To register, [click here](#)

July 22-24 Annual Mackinac Island Festival of the Horse www.mackinacislandfestivalofthehorse.com

The Mackinac Horsemen's Association puts on a great festival to celebrate the horses of Mackinac Island. We especially like the breed show and demonstrations. Be sure to check out the stable tours of the historic Victorian era barns on the prestigious West Bluff, lectures on the role of the horse on Mackinac and kick up your heels at the a good old-fashioned Barn Raisin' Dance to raise money for the new community stable and children's 4H program

July 24-27 Annual Chicago to Mackinac Yacht Race

333 statute miles (289.4 nautical miles) from Chicago, starting just off Navy Pier, to Mackinac Island, Michigan. It is the longest annual freshwater sailing distance race in the world. The boats cross the finish line between the lighthouse on Round Island and the race committee trailer on Mackinac Island.

August

August 8 40th Annual Mackinac Island Horse Show

At the foot hills of Grand Hotel, this gorgeous equine event showcases those in the 4H program and Island horse enthusiasts. Events include classes in showmanship and grooming, English equitation, Western equitation, trail, fence work, bareback equitation, and walk/trot equitation for the Island riders to present. Our favorites include the Grand Hotel Stable Tour and the Breed Show.

August 15 10th Annual Guns & Hoses Softball Tournament

The softball game of the season where Mackinac Island's Police Force battles with the Mackinac Island Fire Department for bragging rights. Proceeds from the game benefits the Mark Gallagher Scholarship Fund through the Mackinac Island Community Foundation. Time TBA, Great Turtle Park

August 17-19 6th Annual Mackinac Island Music Festival www.mackinacislandmusicfestival.org

The Mackinac Island Music Festival was created to celebrate the musicians living and working on Mackinac Island as well as regional and national touring musicians. Genres have included folk, country, rock, blues, bluegrass, classical, jazz and country. We hope you will join us on Mackinac Island this season as we celebrate the surroundings with many fine musicians who have dedicated their lives to the art of music.

August 18-20 Stitching & Tea at Grand Hotel

Join Grand Hotel and San Francisco's own Diane Nerheim owner of Needlepoint, Inc., for a weekend of tranquility and refuge through the art of needlepoint. Three projects will be stitched on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday mornings and all will have a tea theme.

August 20-21 6th Annual Mackinac Island Fudge Festival www.mackinacislandfudgefestival.org

Most people don't need an excuse to indulge in a piece or two of creamy, decadent fudge. But, for those who do, the Fudge Festival offers Island dwellers and tourists a terrific reason to celebrate fudge -- made fresh each day at Mackinac's 17 fudge shops. Events featuring the culinary creations of the Island's chefs and bartenders abound amidst music and dance performances and the coveted: "Daddy, I want the Golden Ticket & I want it Now!" fudge vacation contest.

August 29-Sept. 2 Grand Hotel Games & Gardens Week

Accommodations include breakfast and dinner daily, unlimited free tennis on Grand Hotel's courts, tours of famous Grand Hotel and select Island Gardens, Bocci ball and croquet in Grand Hotel's Tea Garden, free golf greens fees (cart fee required) and special discount on ferry boat tickets.

September

September 3-6 Grand Hotel Labor Day Jazz Weekend

Hot Jazz in a cool setting makes this a perfect weekend to usher out summer and welcome fall. Past artists have included Tito Puente, Earl Klugh, Dave Brubeck and the festival always includes band leader and extraordinary saxophonist Alex Graham and Grand Hotel Orchestra.

September 5 Horn's Bar Labor Day Regatta

Sponsored the Horn's Gaslight Bar, one Island tradition meets another...join well seasoned sailors circumnavigate the Island during this annual sailing event. Contact the Mackinac Island Yacht Club to participate, all invited.

September 6 53rd Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk

Join our Governor and thousands of folks for the annual walk across the Mighty Mac. Click on www.mackinacbridge.org for details.

September 10-12 Carleton Varney's Antique and Design Fall Festival

Join esteemed interior design Icon Carleton Varney (Dorothy Draper's protégé and decorator of Grand Hotel) as he shares his design philosophy which celebrates the use of bright colors and the rejection of all things drab. Accommodations include breakfast and dinner daily, Friday evening Gala Preview Party (charitable donation required), Saturday Grand Luncheon Buffet, Saturday cocktail reception, admission to Antique Showcase, free golf greens fees on The Jewel (cart fee required) and special discount on ferry boat tickets.

September 11 September 8 Mile Run/Walk

The course follows the perimeter of Mackinac Island in a clock-wise direction. The first mile of the race will travel past beautiful architecture downtown to the shoreline of the straits of Mackinac featuring breathtaking views of the Mackinac Bridge, neighboring islands and historic rock formations, finishing at waters edge on the lawn of Mission Point.

September 17-19 Grand Hotel History Weekend

Accommodations include full breakfast and dinner daily, Saturday morning lecture by Grand Hotel's historian, Grand luncheon buffet, admission to Historic Fort Mackinac with demonstrations throughout the day, and a special discount on ferry tickets.

September 24-26 Girlfriend's Getaway Weekend

Grab your BFF, dress to the nines and enjoy two-nights of accommodations, breakfast and dinner daily, wine and champagne welcome reception, morning workout sessions with professional instructor, Saturday afternoon wine-tasting, free golf greens fees (cart fee required) and 20% discount at Grand Hotel shops.

October

October 1-3 Grand Hotel Murder Mystery Weekend

We can't think of a more perfect setting for this fun filled mystery weekend. Accommodations include breakfast and dinner daily, Friday evening welcome reception, Saturday Grand Luncheon Buffet, Saturday evening reception, Murder Mystery activities and entertainment, free golf greens fees on The Jewel (cart fee required) and a special discount on ferry boat tickets.

October 7-10 Mackinac Island Film Festival at Mission Point Resort

This is the first film festival at Mission Point this century and will feature the work of many Michigan filmmakers. The theatre was built in the 1950's by the MRA. With over 100 foot trusses of Michigan White Pine throughout the theatre, the sound is amazing and the theatre...well, its beautiful. More details to come....

October 8-9 Destination Dream Wedding Weekend www.mackinacislandweddings.org

This is not the average wedding show where brides and grooms are trapped in a convention hall but an event where bridal parties will have the opportunity to visit the sites in person and get up close and personal with wedding vendors that will be a part of their wedding day. During the entire weekend, there will be how-to symposiums with wedding specialists so bridal parties can really experience Mackinac Island as a destination and see how cost efficient and easy it is to host a destination wedding. Register online.

October 15-17 Somewhere in Time 30th Anniversary Weekend at Grand Hotel

Fans of the cult classic filmed right here on Mackinac Island gather together to dress the part and celebrate this time travel love story. Accommodations include breakfast and dinner daily, Thursday evening welcome reception, Friday evening reception, Saturday Grand Luncheon Buffet, Saturday evening reception, special showing of the film on Thursday and Friday evenings and meet and greet with cast and crew members.

October 22-24 Ballroom Dance Weekend at Grand Hotel

Accommodations include dance instruction and dance events nightly, breakfast and dinner daily, Friday evening welcome reception, Saturday Grand Luncheon Buffet, Saturday evening reception, free golf greens fees on The Jewel (cart fee required) and special discount on ferry tickets.

October 23 Samhain Weekend & Great Turtle Run

Mackinac Island kicks out a great Halloween celebration with trick or treating downtown for the kids preceded by a traditional Irish wishing stone toss at Windermere Point. In the evening, the downtown pubs put on some great costume parties so come on out and see or be seen. Entertainment all over town with prizes for best costumes at Horn's Bar, Mustang Lounge and the Pink Pony.

About the Great Turtle Run

This year marks the 15th running the Great Turtle Run, of one of the most scenic trail events in the state. Join over 1,300 participants to run and walk the inside trails of Mackinac Island during the last open weekend of the season. Come enjoy special race features - commemorative medals, a high performance long sleeve embroidered race shirt, a post-race pasta party, special Halloween events for adults and kids, great end-of-season sales - plus the beauty of late fall on the Island.

October 25-26 Close the Grand

Imagine opening and closing a hotel every year, especially a hotel the size of Grand Hotel. Learn what it takes to close this majestic hotel each year and experience the Musser family ringing the closing bell as they thank their staff for another season. Accommodations includes the chef's special buffet dinner Monday night, continental breakfast Tuesday morning and a special "Close the Grand" presentation in the Theatre.

Planning:

For assistance year 'round planning your Mackinac Island Vacation, please click on www.mackinacisland.org or call us (906) 847-3783