

Mackinac Island Voted Best Island in Continental U.S.

4 Reasons Travel & Leisure readers rated Mackinac Island No. 1

It's official. Mackinac Island is No. 1!

Michigan's iconic travel destination has been a popular escape for generations. Now, visitors from across the globe have named charming and beautiful Mackinac Island their favorite place to get away, putting it atop the list of the Top 15 Islands in the Continental U.S. in this year's *Travel + Leisure* World's Best Awards.

Travel + Leisure readers hailed the "Jewel of the Great Lakes" as the "quintessential vacation spot for enjoying the simple pleasures." They love Mackinac Island's car-free streets full of horse-drawn carriages and bicycles, its historic character and well-preserved Victorian homes, and its incredible natural beauty and world-famous Mackinac Island fudge.

"What a different place to visit," one voter said. "It's like its own little world."

Travel + Leisure each year asks readers to rate their travel experiences based on things to do, sights to see, natural attractions, food, overall value and more. The feedback is used to recognize an elite group of travel destinations with World's Best Awards – everything from best islands to best cities to best cruise ships and beyond.

Mackinac Island is no stranger to *Travel + Leisure* readers, who ranked it No. 9 in 2021. Here are four reasons Mackinac Island topped the list in 2022:

- **MACKINAC ISLAND'S CHARMING ATMOSPHERE** – "You'll find neither cars nor chain brands on this tiny island," *Travel + Leisure* writes. It's the perfect place to "escape from the hustle and bustle" and feel as though you're stepping back in time to a slower, more relaxed pace of life. The way vacation should be!
- **MACKINAC ISLAND'S EXTRAORDINARY HOSPITALITY** – Visiting Mackinac Island is "like stepping into a fairy tale," writes *Travel + Leisure*. Travelers arrive by ferry boat at the Mackinac Island dock "where horse-drawn carriages await to whisk you and your luggage to your lodging." The many places to stay on Mackinac Island "channel a bygone era" and exude "genteel hospitality."
- **MACKINAC ISLAND'S DIVERSE SHOPPING AND DINING** – From the "irresistible smell of homemade fudge" to delicious dishes prepared by star chefs at fine-dining restaurants,

Mackinac Island is a wonderful place to gratify your palate with a variety of flavors, writes *Travel + Leisure*. It's also home to some of the prettiest picnic spots in the world. And the many art galleries and boutique shops of Mackinac Island offer special, one-of-a-kind treasures to be discovered.

- **MACKINAC ISLAND'S ADVENTUROUS LANDSCAPE** – *Travel + Leisure* readers love the many sights to see and things to explore on Mackinac Island, both in town and in the expanse of the state park that covers 80% of the island. Visitors enjoy riding a bike all the way around the lakeshore drive that circles Mackinac Island and paddling the surrounding waters in a kayak. They have fun exploring historic Fort Mackinac and gawking at some of Michigan's oldest and grandest homes. And they appreciate the chance to "get lost in a flutter of delicate wings" at Mackinac Island's beautiful butterfly conservatories.

Being named the No. 1 Island by *Travel + Leisure* readers is one of many accolades – or shall we say, "Mack-olades" – that Mackinac Island has earned. Mackinac Island also has been named the most tourist-friendly U.S. city by *Expedia* and the Best Family Vacation Destination by *Away.com*. It's the site of the best picnic spot in Michigan, per *Reader's Digest*. HGTV even rated Mackinac Island one of the country's best Christmas towns!

Here are 10 more honors for Mackinac Island, the "Jewel of the Great Lakes" and the No. 1 Island in the Continental U.S.

- Best Little Beach Towns to Visit This Summer, *Coastal Living*
- 5 Best Golf Experiences in Michigan, *Golf Digest*
- Top 10 Car-Free Destination in the World, *Sherman's Travel*
- Best Wedding Destination in the U.S., *DestinationWedding.com*
- Best Midwest Small-Town Getaways, *Midwest Living*
- Top Family-Friendly Beach Town, *NerdWallet Travel*
- No. 1 State Park in the US, *FamilyFun magazine*
- Most Romantic Destinations in the U.S., *DatingAdvice.com*
- America's Grandest Hotels, *The Huffington Post*
- 100 Places to Take Your Kids, *Frommers*



The best ways to leisurely
SPEND AN EVENING ON THE ISLAND

MACKINAC ISLAND 

GLOW-GOLF
AT MACKINAC ISLAND'S MISSION POINT RESORT 

 **BALLROOM DANCING**
ON MACKINAC ISLAND AT GRAND HOTEL

MOVIES
AT FORT MACKINAC 

 **STARGAZING**
AT MACKINAC ISLAND'S FORT HOLMES

SUNSET OR SUNRISE
KAYAK TOURS
OF MACKINAC ISLAND 

 **MACKINAC ISLAND SIP N' SAIL CRUISE,**
A SUNSET CRUISE TO THE MACKINAC BRIDGE WITH LIVE MUSIC AND A CASH BAR

BAR & MUSIC SCENE 

Best U.S Islands
Conde Nast Traveler Readers Choice Awards 2018

Hottest U.S. Summer Destination 2018
Trip Advisor

A Most Tourist Friendly U.S. City 2018
Expedia

Best Little Beach Towns to Visit This Summer 2018
Coastal Living

Best Picnic Spot in Michigan 2018
Reader's Digest

5 Best Golf Experiences in Michigan 2018
Golf Digest

Top Ten Island in the U.S.
Trip Advisor

Mackinac Island State Park was named the #1 State Park in the U.S.
FamilyFun

Lilac Festival chosen as one of America's 14 Best Small-Town Festivals
Fodor's

Best U.S Island Destination
Islands.com

Best Island Destination in the World, #5
National Geographic

America's Grandest Hotels, #6: Grand Hotel
The Huffington Post

Top Family-Friendly Beach Town
Nerd Wallet Travel

Top 10 Car-Free Destination in the world, #5
Sherman's Travel

Grand Hotel Top Michigan Hotel
U.S. News & World Report

Best Wedding Destination in the U.S.
DestinationWeddings.com

Grand Hotel among the 50 Most Romantic Honeymoon Destinations in the United States
Yahoo

Country Living Magazine names Mackinac Island in the Top 5 All American Islands
Country Living Magazine

Pink Pony named the most Iconic Bar in Michigan
Thrillist

Travel + Leisure readers have voted Mackinac Island

#1

Top 15 Islands in the Continental U.S.
in the publication's World's Best Awards this year.

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