

# 1 Colonial Michilimackinac

Michilimackinac, now one of the longest ongoing archeological projects of its kind, was founded in 1715 as a French fur-trading village and military outpost. It was here where fur traders and Indians rendezvoused, French and British officers organized war parties and explorers began their journeys into the vast western unknown. It was later occupied by the British who abandoned it in 1780 to establish a new fort on Mackinac Island. Open early May - mid October. 102 Straits Avenue. [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)

# 2 Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse & Shipwreck Museum

Erected in 1892, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse served as a beacon of safety in the Straits for more than 60 years. Climb the tower and take in the spectacular view. Interact with hands-on exhibits. 526 North Huron Avenue. [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)

# 3 The Headlands International Dark Sky Park

The Headlands, a 600-acre thickly forested gem situated along the clear blue expanse of Lake Michigan, is one of the few International Dark Sky Parks in the country. The Headlands possesses exceptional natural darkness, starry skies and natural nocturnal habitat. Dark Skies programs are available. The Park contains pristine woodlands, more than 2 miles of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline and many species of rare and endangered plant life. Visitors to the Headlands may experience sightings of the many wild animals native to the area including: bald eagles, osprey, white tail deer, wild turkeys, coyotes and occasionally a black bear. Marked nature trails guide hikers, cross-country skiers, and nature photographers to experience the park throughout the changing seasons. The "Beach House" and the "Guest House" are available for rental. [emmetcounty.org/headlands](http://emmetcounty.org/headlands)

# 4 Mackinac Bridge

The Mackinac Bridge, built in 1957, is one of the longest suspension bridges in the world. The total length of the bridge is 26,372 ft. The height of the towers soar 553 ft above the water. The 1,024,500 ton structure features 42,000 miles of cable. Each year on Labor Day, the bridge is opened to walkers traveling from St. Ignace to Mackinaw City. [mackinacbridge.org](http://mackinacbridge.org)

**Mackinaw Bridge Museum:** (Mackinac Bridge is spelled with a "c", but the Museum is spelled with a "w" to denote that it is in Mackinaw City). This FREE museum features a narrated video of the bridge construction and displays of the artifacts used. Come and see the nation's largest collection of bridge artifacts! Open daily 8 am - 10 pm May 1st - October 30. Located at 231 E Central Avenue upstairs from Mama Mia's Pizza.

# 5 Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum

"An American Hero Story" The "Queen of the Great Lakes", built as part of the war effort during WWII, the *Mackinaw* (WAGB-) was the most powerful and capable icebreaker in the world and is still the standard by which icebreakers are measured. For 62 years, she served the Great Lakes shipping industry. She was decommissioned June 10, 2006. Daily tours are available May - October. 231-436-9825. [themackinaw.org](http://themackinaw.org)

# 6 Mackinaw Heritage Village

Heritage Village recreates the period between 1880-1917. The 141-acre site features historic buildings including a one-room School House, a 1900 Pestilence House, Heritage Chapel, a restored log home, a sawmill, a Native American plank house, hiking trails, and Nature Center. Visit the village any day and take advantage of our Audio Tour. For tours conducted by docents, the village is open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 1 pm to 4 pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For more information on our buildings and attractions use our Audio Tour by phoning 231-486-0003 and keying in stops 201 - 213. [mackinawhistory.org](http://mackinawhistory.org)

# 7 Jack Pine Lumberjack Shows

The Jack Pine Lumberjack Shows are a journey back into the late 1800's when logging was king in the northwoods of Michigan. Watch as two rival camps compete for the title, "Bull of the Woods" in chopping, sawing, pole climbing and log rolling. 1.5 miles south of Mackinaw City on US 23. 231-436-5225. [jackpinelumberjackshows.com](http://jackpinelumberjackshows.com)

# 8 Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

The site of the first industrial settlement in the Straits area. Hear the rush of water powering a reconstructed sawmill as you experience a sawmill demonstration. Participate in the sawpit method of lumber production. Immerse yourself in nature trails and interactive exhibits. Climb a 50-foot tower. Experience the adrenaline of the park naturalist-guided Adventure Tour, which includes the Eagles Flight Zip Line, Forest Canopy Bridge, and Nature Trail Climbing Wall. Less than 5 minutes from Mackinaw City on US 23 south. [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com)

Check out our video series featuring... *Historic Mill Creek*  
Also featuring: Shipwreck Alley, Ocqueoc Falls, and Tuttle Marsh!

# 9 North Central State Trail & North Eastern State Trail

**North Central State Trail:** The 62-mile rail trail between Gaylord and Mackinaw City has a surface of compacted limestone that is suitable for virtually any bicycle tire. Its uses include not only bicycling but also walking, horseback riding, and, in the winter, snowmobiling. Trailheads in Gaylord, Vanderbilt, Wolverine, Indian River, Cheboygan, and Mackinaw City.

**North Eastern State Trail:** Traversing 71 miles between Alpena and Cheboygan, this trail joins up with the North Central State Trail just south of Lincoln Street in Cheboygan. With a crushed limestone surface, this trail follows the path first made possible by the lumber industry in the need to transport lumber by rail. [trailscouncil.org](http://trailscouncil.org)

# 10 Lighthouses

Michigan lighthouses were beacons of brilliance as they guided sailors along the Michigan coastline. While some lighthouses are still in operation, others have been converted to museums in order to share their stories. The Straits Area boasts numerous lighthouses and lighthouse ruins to view and explore: Old Mackinac Point Light, McGulpin Point Light, Cheboygan Crib Light, Cheboygan River Front Range Lighthouse, Poe Reef Light, Fourteen Foot Shoal Light, Spectacle Reef Light, and the Bois Blanc Lighthouse. Visit the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association at [gllka.com](http://gllka.com). (231) 436-5580.

# 11 Cheboygan & Mackinaw Marinas

The Mackinaw City Municipal Marina, Straits State Harbor, the Cheboygan County Marina and the Cheboygan Municipal Marina all provide an expansive view of the Straits! All accept reservations on-line at: [midnrreservations.com](http://midnrreservations.com).

# 12 Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw

The WLBB-30 is a 240-foot icebreaker and buoy tender equipped with state-of-the-art navigation and engineering systems. Its duties include icebreaking, search & rescue, navigation aid, Homeland Security, public relations and marine environmental protection.

# 13 Cheboygan Opera House

The Opera House, originally constructed in 1877, was restored in 1984. This acoustically superb theater has become a focal point for entertainment in the Straits Area. 403 N. Huron Street. Call 231-627-5432 for concert schedules, tickets, and information. (Box Office 231-627-5841). [theoperahouse.org](http://theoperahouse.org)

# 14 The Inland Waterway

The Inland Waterway encompasses a 38.2-mile route from Lake Huron to Crooked Lake. In between, you travel the Cheboygan River, Mullett Lake, Indian River, Burt Lake, Crooked River and into Crooked Lake. This unique chain of lakes and rivers was once a vital means of transportation for the area. Visitors will travel through two locks - one located in Cheboygan and the other near Alanson. The 38-mile waterway is a unique adventure sure to please any boating enthusiast. From wildlife and scenic beauty to water skiing, tubing and swimming ...the Inland Waterway has it all. [michiganwatertrails.org/northeast.asp](http://michiganwatertrails.org/northeast.asp)

# 15 Cheboygan County History Center

Located at Huron and Court Streets in Cheboygan, the complex consists of four buildings which house artifacts and historic exhibits of the past. The grounds also display the Memorial Rose Garden and beautiful perennial garden. 427 Court Street. Open Memorial Day through September, Tuesday-Saturday 1-4 pm. [cheboyganhistorycenter.org](http://cheboyganhistorycenter.org)

# Tourism Information 2019

**Michigan DNR**  
[michigan.gov/dnr](http://michigan.gov/dnr)

**Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce**  
[mackinawcitychamber.com](http://mackinawcitychamber.com)  
1-231-436-5574

**Mackinaw Area Visitor's Bureau**  
[mackinawcity.com](http://mackinawcity.com)  
1-800-666-0160

**Up North Trails**  
5,300 miles of trails in Northern MI  
[upnorthtrails.org](http://upnorthtrails.org)

**ARTrail**  
200-mile arts & culture trail  
[artownmichigan.org](http://artownmichigan.org)

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Featuring online...



and



**Sunrise Coast Birding Trail**

[www.heritage23.com](http://www.heritage23.com)





# Cheboygan & Mackinaw

The US 23 Heritage Route...an official 200-mile Pure Michigan Byway along Lake Huron's coast.

## 1—15 Featured attractions described on reverse

### Other Outdoor Recreational Facilities...

- 1 Turbine Pines Disc Golf Course**  
Turbine Pines in Mackinaw City is located off Trails End Rd next to the bike trail. This free park offers an 18 hole course in a natural woodlands/field setting. Several holes offer a "green view" of the two wind turbines and Michigan white pines.
- 2 Recreation Complex & Ice Arenas**  
The Mackinaw City Complex features ball fields, tennis courts, ice skating, picnic pavilion, walking track, and exercise equipment. The Cheboygan Ice Pavilion features hockey, open skating and skate rentals.
- 3 Indian Pathways Park**   
Landscaped picknicking park with a great view of the bridge.
- 4 Old School Park**   
This park features a play structure, pavilion, basketball, and pathways.
- 5 Conkling Heritage Park**   
Located just north of the Straits Harbor, Conkling Heritage Park is the performance shell and events area. The park hosts our free concert series each summer and many other community events.
- 6 McRae Nature Park**  
This park features a 500-foot wood-chip trail offering views of wetland areas and an opportunity to view small wildlife.
- 7 Gordon Turner Park**   
Located at the end of Huron St, the Park features its beach, volleyball nets, large playground, boardwalk into protected wetlands, breakwall jetting out into the lake, and the Cheboygan Crib Light. Two more lighthouses, Poe Reef and Fourteen Foot Shoal, are visible from the beach, and, on a clear day, the Mackinac Bridge is visible to the west. To the NE lies Bois Blanc Island, Round and Mackinac Islands.
- 8 Kiwanis Park**
- 9 Veteran's Memorial Park**  
This park features an historic cannon and Vietnam War veteran's memorial.
- 10 Washington Park**   
Washington Park is at the center of downtown Cheboygan on Main Street/M-27. The park has a band shell and picnic area. The Chamber of Commerce is located at the park.
- 11 Major City Park**   
Major City Park has several ball fields for baseball and softball and a basketball court. Three fishing piers are located on the Cheboygan River on the west side of the park near the bridge across the river that leads to Washington Park. The city boat launch is located nearby.
- 12 Mackinaw Looper**   
Suggested Trail Routes: 11-mile loop follows the Petoskey to Mackinaw Rail Trail, turns east on Potter Road, then north on Stimpson Road, then returns to Mackinaw City via the North Central State Trail. 18-mile loop continues farther east along Potter Road to N. Old Mackinaw Road, then follows the North Central State Trail back to Mackinaw City.
- 13 Mackinaw Straits Roadside Park**
- 14 Cheboygan State Park**  
231-627-2811  
michigan.gov/dnr
- 15 Scenic Turnout**
- 16 Huron Shores Roadside Park**

