



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who should attend the tours?

People interested in hearing about and seeing the real Mackinac Island will enjoy this tour. Mackinac Revealed is the only source of Island information delivered by an actual, long term resident, expert in the many features of Mackinac, who hails from a family on the Island since the mid-1800s. Generations of insights, a successful career in public outreach and natural resources management, combined with a deep love of this location give Moira Croghan unmatched capabilities.

There is so much more to the Mackinac than most people typically see or hear, and there are many subjects that only Mackinac Revealed has the experience and expertise to cover. Repeat visitors to Mackinac say Mackinac Revealed provided new and exciting perspectives which enhanced their life-long appreciation of this special Island.

As a professional trainer, Moira's tours are also suited to school groups, conventioners and their spouses, reunions, and passengers on coach-excursions

### Is advance purchase required?

Yes. Advance ticket purchase is suggested so that we can plan to staff each tour accordingly. We would appreciate at least 24 hours' advance notice/purchase of tickets, though tickets can be bought up to 4 hours before a tour begins (unless a tour has been canceled). Tickets are purchased via our Event Calendar page. Tickets can be purchased online using a credit card; no personal checks are allowed.

### What about last minute participants?

Last minute participants often can attend if direct contact is made with Mackinac Revealed. If a tour is leaving in less than 4 hours, it is necessary to call the guide Moira Croghan (540/771-0699 Cell; 231/622-4967 Office) and arrange participation.

### How long is the tour?

The standard tour lasts about 1 and 3/4 hours, give or take 15 minutes.

### How much do tour tickets cost?

Standard tour tickets are \$36 each for adults and children older than 10 years. Children under 5 are free, and ages 5 – 10 are \$17. Bike Safaris are \$38 per person, private tours are \$40 per person. Prices are subject to change.

## What about tipping?

Tipping is invited but never expected. The tour guide is rendering you a service, and as such, a tip is appreciated if you feel the guide has done a good job. In the service industry, the customary tipping amount is 15-20% of the tour price (for reference, usually \$5 to \$10/person).

## What are Specialized Tours and Services?

- **Specialized Tours:** These events focus exclusively on 1 or 2 topics with greater in-depth information provided on the subjects of particular interest, among the topics covered in the standard tour. Specialized and private tours may visit more Island sites, including caves, additional neighborhoods, limestone formations and wooded trails.

Bike tours called the Bike Safari are specialized tours, allowing you to see much more of Mackinac, especially some beautiful trails and spots few tourists see. These are scheduled at times when no walking tour is scheduled. Prices may vary.

Seated presentations are available to groups such as family reunions, wedding parties, business conventions, school groups and persons not desiring to walk outside. A colorful slide show addresses a variety of Mackinac Revealed topics, with views of many Island locations.

Additional interactive events can be provided such as Scavenger Hunts, geared to the appropriate age and interest of the group.

- **Specialized Receptive Services:** Trip planning assistance is offered, to help individuals and groups maximize their time and experience on Mackinac Island. This can include arrangements for ferry boat, hotels, carriage tours, meals etc. Tours and seated presentations are also provided for cruise ship and coach line passengers visiting Mackinac Island. Those seeking Specialized Receptive Services should contact Moira Croghan directly.

## What is the terrain & distance of each tour?

Walking tours cover approximately 1½ miles at a leisurely pace, with a variety of stops for viewing and talking along the way. There are two hills on the route, taken slowly. Mackinac is a hilly Island owing to the Bluffs.

## What should I bring?

Please wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for heat/cold. Consider bringing water to drink. There is not a bathroom available during the tour.

## Are there accommodations for strollers and wheelchairs?

Mackinac Revealed welcomes everyone. It is up to you as to whether the tour is right for you. The route is paved except for one trail several hundred feet long. This pathway can be circumvented to remain on pavement.

## Do we go inside any buildings?

No, but we pass very close to the outside of many historic structures, including the Grand Hotel, and learn about the construction and design of the buildings, the summer homes, as well as the residents and lifestyles. Photos of the insides are shown as we proceed. Your tour guide spent many summers in one of the Victorian homes, and her parents,

cousins, grandparents, and great-grandparents have resided in four of the iconic, Bluff summer cottages, providing many insights about the local lifestyles and architecture.

## How are the tours different from other tours on Mackinac Island?

Mackinac Revealed is the only tour given by a long-term Bluff resident, familiar with generations of Island history, (because her Great Grandfather built two of the first summer homes in the 1800s).

Only Mackinac Revealed is licensed by both the City and the State of Michigan to provide these tours, and is the only such service not required to follow a script owing to her extensive professional experience and background on Mackinac.

In addition to the topics cited above - - like Island history, the Victorian homes, horse-and-carriage living, here are some of the topics that only Mackinac Revealed covers:

- How Islanders Live
- Beautiful, Secret Spots
- Native People of the Straits
- Mackinac's Environment
- Lumber & Fur-Trading Eras
- Shipping & Shipwrecks
- Wintertime On Mackinac
- Life of Summer Workers
- Island Politics
- Geology, Trees, Birds, Gardens, Wildlife
- Great Lakes & Straits of Mackinac
- Behind the Scenes on Mackinac
- Economic commerce on Mackinac
- Docks, Roads, Trails, Infrastructure, Water Supply

Mackinac Revealed takes routes not used by any other tour, and can describe the Island in ways only an insider knows. While carriage tour drivers are visiting for a few months and follow an approved script, the tour from Mackinac Revealed comes from a genuine, permanent resident.

## Is there a bathroom stop?

There is no bathroom on the route.

## Are there tours on Sundays and holidays?

Yes, on Mackinac Island, every day is a holiday! Tours are available to be scheduled every day, and sometimes in the evenings. The calendar shows on the webpage. At special request, additional events may be added.

## What is the maximum or minimum number of people in a tour group?

Tours are generally limited to 15 people so that we can accommodate the needs of each group. The minimum number for a tour to take place is two persons. If only one person wants to go, the fee for two persons can be paid.

## Are there special group or private tours available?

Yes, we make special arrangements to accommodate larger, special groups and offer a discounted group rate. Private tours can be arranged at a slightly higher rate than the Standard Tour. Your guide can provide a Spanish speaking tour, as a separate event, if needed, with moderate fluency.

## When do tours start?

All tours begin as scheduled and shown on the website calendar. Please consult the website for individual tour starting times and tour route areas. We ask that you arrive at the meeting location about 5-10 minutes prior to departure.

## Where do we meet?

The meeting spot is a large bench in a contained area at the Woodfill Commemorative Bench. The marble bench is in the shape of a horseshoe and is surrounded by white, round, round, planters. Your guide will introduce herself and have a list of the participants. Please check in with the guide when you arrive at the starting location.



Woodfill Bench =  
Tour Meeting Place

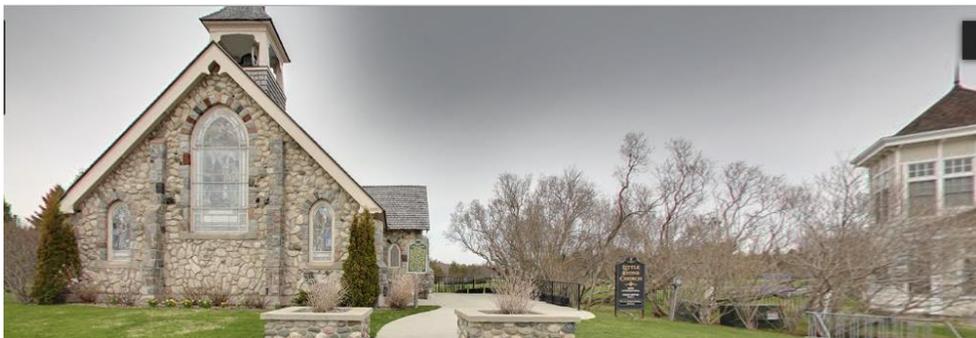
Photo of the Woodfill Bench

For further orientation:

The tour meets a few hundred feet past the Gatehouse Restaurant at 1547 Cadotte Avenue, The Woodfill Bench is on the same side of the road as this restaurant.



The tour meets across the street from the Little Stone Church, but a bit farther west, up the road that goes to the Grand Hotel.



Little Stone Church

## Where do tours end?

Tours end where they begin. It is safe to bring a bicycle to that starting point and park it for the duration of the tour.

## How far is the meeting place from the boat docks?

It takes 5-10 minutes to walk from the dock to the meeting place. It is only 3-5 blocks (depending on which ferry line you use).

## What are precise directions for reaching the meeting site?

From any dock on Main Street, walk up a side street to Market Street. Turn left onto Market Street and walk to the end – where there is a stable in the right and the road curves to the right. Most traffic will also be turning at this corner. At this point, do not walk straight downhill towards the Lake, but follow the curve in the road to the right, where it becomes Cadotte Avenue. Go to the end of the block and keep going straight past the Gatehouse Restaurant on the left. You then will see the Little Stone Church on the right. The meeting spot is across the road from the Little Stone Church, a bit past the Gatehouse Restaurant and on the same side as the restaurant.

## What if I cannot find the meeting place?

Ask carriage-drivers and passersby for the location of the Little Stone Church. The site is across the street from the Little Stone Church, but a bit farther along, closer to the Grand Hotel. Island maps are available at many bike-rental shops, and also at a booth operated by the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau. The booth is a small building, next door to the Murray Hotel. This booth is also next to the spot where carriage tours load and depart. The Tourism booth is directly across the street from the top of the east Star Line dock.

## What about pagers and cell phones?

Out of consideration for other tour participants and your guide, we ask that you turn ringers and alerts off or switch them to silent mode. If you must have a phone conversation during the tour, we would appreciate your stepping away from the group so as not to disrupt anyone's experience.

## Should I bring my camera?

Absolutely. You are free to take photos along the entire tour. There are views, sites and features you will definitely want to photograph.

## What about bad weather? Are tours cancelled due to poor weather?

Rainy weather is not cause to cancel a tour. There are no refunds for adverse weather situations because the tours will operate rain or shine. Please check the weather forecast for the possibility of adverse conditions (rain, cold, etc.) and prepare as appropriate. Generally, tours will be cancelled only if lightening is a threat. If extreme inclement weather forces the cancellation of a tour already scheduled or already started, re-scheduling of the tour will be arranged.