

GUIDE TO ACCESS FOR VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES

The historic and natural environments of the Straits of Mackinac sometimes present impediments to accessibility. Blowing sand, natural trails, and steep grades can make traveling difficult. Many 18th and 19th century buildings have entrance steps, narrow doorways, and other physical barriers. Efforts are made to make all aspects of Mackinac State Historic Parks accessible. Where possible, physical changes have removed barriers. Alternate programs or services provide additional access opportunities and future projects will continue to improve access.

TO BE USED WITH SITE MAPS



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
MACKINAC



mackinacparks.com



OLD MACKINAC POINT
LIGHTHOUSE
FOUNDED 1889

MUSEUM & PARK SERVICES

- Accessible parking spaces are located at the Visitor's Centers at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Colonial Michilimackinac. Wheelchairs are available for loan at most admission areas on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Site maps are available in large print format at admission areas.
- Captioning is provided for the movies at all sites.
- Service animals are permitted at all sites and in all buildings.

SYMBOLS

The following symbols are used on site maps and some signs to provide general access information:

i Additional Information

More information is available in this Guide to Access about alternate programs, services, or entrances.

● - These buildings/areas meet the requirements for easy access. Surface materials are firm and ramps are provided for elevation changes.

■ - One or two steps, loose surface materials, or high thresholds may limit access for visitors with mobility impairments. Assistance may be helpful.

◆ - Three or more steps or unstable surfaces make access difficult for some visitors. Assistance may be necessary.

Following is information for each of our sites on accessibility issues. The numbers correspond to numbers on the individual site maps.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN **MACKINAC**

- American Fur Company Store/ Dr. Beaumont Museum
- Biddle House
- Benjamin Blacksmith Shop
- McGulpin House
- Mission Church

◆ DIFFICULT ACCESS

Access may be difficult for some visitors with mobility impairments in these buildings:

- Stairs lead to the Mission Church **E**

■ MODERATE ACCESS

Access may be limited for some visitors with mobility impairments in these buildings:

- McGulpin House **D** has one entrance step and the door is 31" wide.
- A steep ramp leads to the Blacksmith Shop **B**.
- Restrooms at the Visitor's Center are functionally accessible.

i ALTERNATE EXITS

- Biddle House/Blacksmith Shop yard (**A**/**B**): A turnstile may require exiting this area through the house. Staff is available for help.

FORT MACKINAC

FOUNDED 1780

GETTING TO FORT MACKINAC

Passenger ferries and airplanes take visitors to Mackinac Island. Two private companies operate boats to the island from St. Ignace and Mackinaw City. Air-taxi service from Pellston and St. Ignace is also available. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on Mackinac Island; however, personal motorized devices are allowed with permission. Please contact us for more details.

Fort Mackinac's most accessible entrance is located on the north side of the site and can be reached in several ways. The most immediate route from downtown is to follow Fort Street up the west side of the fort. This road is very steep and may be difficult for some visitors. Other less direct roads also lead to the north entrance.

The ramp leading to the south entrance has 27 steps at the top. This entrance is NOT accessible for visitors using wheelchairs. Horse-drawn carriage tours and taxis leaving from downtown locations will transport visitors to the north side of the fort. A taxi with a lift may be available.

Outdoor surfaces in the fort are wooden boardwalks and grass.

◆ DIFFICULT ACCESS

Five to eight entrance steps to these buildings may make access difficult for visitors with mobility impairments:

- Post Bathhouse **4**
- North Blockhouse* **10**

- Schoolhouse **9**
- West Blockhouse **12**
- Tea Room* **15**
- East Blockhouse **20**
- Upper Gun Platform* **19**

*Alternate programs provided.

■ MODERATE ACCESS

Access may be limited for some visitors with mobility impairments in these buildings:

- The Officers' Hill Quarters **11** has narrow hallways, thresholds and stairs to the second floor.
- Two entrance steps lead to the Guardhouse **17**.

i ALTERNATE BUILDING ENTRANCES

The following buildings have alternate ramped entrances:

- Enter the Post Headquarters **2** through the Quartermaster's Storehouse **3**.
- Enter the Officers' Stone Quarters **14** through the back porch of the building.

i ALTERNATE ENTRANCES

- The ramp leading to the South Sally Port **18** entrance is very steep and there are 27 steps at the top. This entrance is NOT accessible for visitors using wheelchairs. Please use Fort Street to connect you to the Avenue of Flags entrance.
- A small elevator in the Soldiers' Barracks **7** connects the two levels of Fort Mackinac. The elevator accommodates only smaller motorized wheelchairs. Elevator entrance locations: Parade Ground Level: Near Restrooms **6**; Avenue of Flags Level: Barracks rear porch, second door.
- Alternate North Sally Port **5** entrance to lower level.

i ALTERNATE PROGRAMS

- Accessible service for the Tea Room **15** is available on the covered piazza at the rear of the Officers' Stone Quarters **14**.
- The cannon demonstration, located up a flight of stairs on the Gun Platform **19**, is shown live on a television monitor at the Water Well **21**. All other scheduled programs are held in accessible areas.
- A video program is available west of the North Blockhouse **10** exhibit.



i ALTERNATE REAR ENTRANCE

- Follow ramp around building. Elevator access inside to the second floor.



i Miles of island trails offer a variety of experiences and connect many areas of interest. All trails have at least one length of steep slope. Watch for carriages and horses on paved roads, and bicyclists on bike paths. Walking trails have gravel or wood chip surfaces. For more information, consult the Historic Mackinac Visitor's Guide or guest service representatives at the downtown Mackinac State Historic Parks Visitor's Center.

Outdoor surfaces are hard packed gravel, grass, and sand.



◆ DIFFICULT ACCESS

Natural conditions make access on these trails difficult for visitors with mobility impairments:

- Loop 3 (Beaver Pond Trail)
- Eagle's Flight Zip Line* **16**
- Treetop Discovery Tower & Climbing Wall* **17**
- Forest Canopy Bridge* **18**

*Adventure Tour elements

■ MODERATE ACCESS

Access may be limited for some visitors with mobility impairments in these areas:

- Loop 1 (Mill Pond Trail) and Loop 2 (Evergreen Trail) are hard-packed gravel, but natural slopes and gravel surfaces may be difficult for some visitors.
- The Picnic Area **3** is covered by grass.
- Surfaces around the Unexcavated Building Sites **10** are covered by grass.

i ALTERNATE ENTRANCES

- A ramped boardwalk near the Visitor's Center **1** leads to the west side of Loop 1, near the Overlook **12**. Another ramped boardwalk near the Sawpit Area **9** leads to the trail on the east side of Loop 1.
- A ramp is located on the east side of the British Workshop **8**.

i PROGRAMS

- The Adventure Tour is a separate ticket and price. All elements of this tour are difficult to access for those with mobility impairments.



Outdoor surfaces are gravel, grass and sand.

◆ DIFFICULT ACCESS

Access may be difficult for some visitors with mobility impairments in these buildings:

- Stairs lead to the Powder Magazine **19**. Entrance is from the South Southeast Rowhouse **18**.
- Interior stairs in the Northwest Rowhouse **7** lead to the archaeology exhibit. A movie is available — see Alternate Programs below.

■ MODERATE ACCESS

Access may be limited for some visitors with mobility impairments in these buildings:

- South Southeast Rowhouse **18** has one entrance step.
- Merchant's, Soldier's and Trader's Houses **11** doors are 29.5" wide.
- The Priest's House **8** has two sets of entrance steps and a 3" level change within the building.
- Cannon Firings **2** are located on a packed gravel surface that is sometimes covered with a layer of sand.
- The Native American Encampment **1** area has a grass surface.

i PATH TO THE FORT

FROM THE VISITOR'S CENTER

- A 500 foot path leads from the Visitor's Center to the fort. A layer of sand sometimes covers the hard-packed trail. The inland route to the Land Gate **22** (left path) is recommended.

i ALTERNATE PROGRAMS AND ENTRANCES

- A video on the underground exhibit *Treasures from the Sand* is available at the entrance in the Northwest Rowhouse **7**.
- The north Church door **10** is not accessible; use the main south entrance.



Outdoor surfaces are paved side-walks and grassy surfaces.

◆ DIFFICULT ACCESS

Access may be difficult for some visitors with mobility impairments in this area:

- Confined curved staircase leads to the tower **3** in the lighthouse.

i ALTERNATE PROGRAMS AND ENTRANCES

- A video on the tower tour is located in the Keepers' Quarters **2** gallery.
- A ramp leads to the south door of the Barn **4**. Ask for assistance for access.