MACKINAC ROUNDTABLE ON TALENT

Transportation Guide to Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

286 Grand Avenue
Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Thank you for making plans to attend the ***Mackinac Roundtable on Talent***, **June 28-30, 2026**. The Roundtable is held annually at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Located between Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas, the Island is unique as it is primarily accessible by ferry, allows no motorized vehicles, and island transportation is exclusively horse and carriage. As you prepare to join the Roundtable, below is a guide to Mackinac Island travel.

TIMING

The Roundtable will begin at approximately 5:45 PM Eastern on Sunday, June 28, and will conclude by 11:00 AM Eastern on Tuesday, June 30.

4-Step Transportation Guide

If you are traveling from out-of-state by plane, begin with **Step 1**.

If you are traveling within Michigan by car, skip to **Step 3**.

STEP 1: Traveling to Northern Michigan

COMMERCIAL AIR CARRIERS

Commercial flights are available to either Pellston, MI (PLN), Chippewa County, MI (CIU), or Traverse City, MI (TVC). Commercial airlines do *not* travel to Mackinac Island.

Pellston Regional Airport (PLN)
Located 15 miles south of the Mackinac City ferry docks in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Chippewa County International Airport (CIU)
Located 35 miles north of the St. Ignace ferry docks in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Traverse City Airport (TVC)
Located 116 miles southwest of the Mackinac City ferry docks in Michigan's Lower Peninsula (2 hour drive)

STEP 2: Traveling from a Northern Michigan airport to Mackinaw City

- Options for Ground Transportation (to Mackinaw City) or Air Travel (to Mackinac Island)

GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Via Pellston, MI – If arriving via commercial airline, our recommended provider for public ground transportation to the Mackinaw City ferry dock is ***Mackinaw Shuttle***. The shuttle schedule is based on carrier arrival times in Pellston. Roundtrip fare is $65/adult. One-way fare is $50/first adult and $35/each additional adult on the same trip. Travel time is 20-25 minutes. Reservations must be made in advance.

Contact info for Mackinaw Shuttle:
231-539-7005
https://www.mackinawshuttle.com

Via Chippewa County, MI – If you are flying into CIU airport, you will travel to Mackinac Island through *St. Ignace, MI in the Upper Peninsula*, rather than through Mackinaw City, MI (see Step 3). Shuttle service is available from CIU airport to the St. Ignace ferry docks – see details here.

Via Traverse City, MI – Ground transportation to Mackinaw City is only available via rental car or car service and needs to be arranged in advance (2-hour drive).

ALTERNATIVE CHARTERED AIR TRAVEL TO MACKINAC ISLAND

(from Pellston, Chippewa County, or Traverse City to Mackinac *Island*)
If selecting this option, skip "Step 3 – Ferry Transportation" below.

If you prefer to travel directly to Mackinac Island via private air charter, flights are available from Pellston, Chippewa County, or Traverse City through ***Fresh Air Aviation***.

Contact info for Fresh Air Aviation:
(231) 237-9482
https://www.freshairaviation.net/ | info@freshairaviation.net

If this option is selected, be sure to arrange a carriage service from Mackinac Island Airport to the hotel. To reserve, please call (906) 847-3323. (Please allow approximately 30 minutes for the carriage ride from the Island Airport to Grand Hotel.)

STEP 3: Traveling from Mackinaw City (lower peninsula) or St. Ignace (upper peninsula) to Mackinac Island

If chartered air travel to Mackinac Island is booked in step 2 (instead of ground transportation), SKIP step 3.

FERRY TRANSPORTATION

Transportation from Mackinaw City or St. Ignace to Mackinac Island is recommended via *Shepler's Ferry*.

A special ticket price is available for Roundtable attendees (Roundtrip at $32 for adults, $22 for children, with a $2 booking fee per person) using the promo code: 06colleges26 (case sensitive). Tickets may be purchased online in advance or upon your arrival at Shepler's. An additional charge applies for overnight parking (secured and unsecured lots).

> **Contact info for Shepler's Ferry:**
> 1-800-828-6157
> https://www.sheplersferry.com/

Shepler's Ferry departs regularly (typically every 30 minutes) from Mackinaw City or St. Ignace to the Island – see ferry schedule. **Please plan to depart Mackinaw City (or St. Ignace) at least 90 minutes prior to the first event.**

Baggage Note: In Mackinaw City or St. Ignace, Shepler's staff will ask if you would like your bags sent straight to Grand Hotel from the docks. While this is a convenient option, note that it can take up to 3 hours for baggage to be delivered to your hotel room.

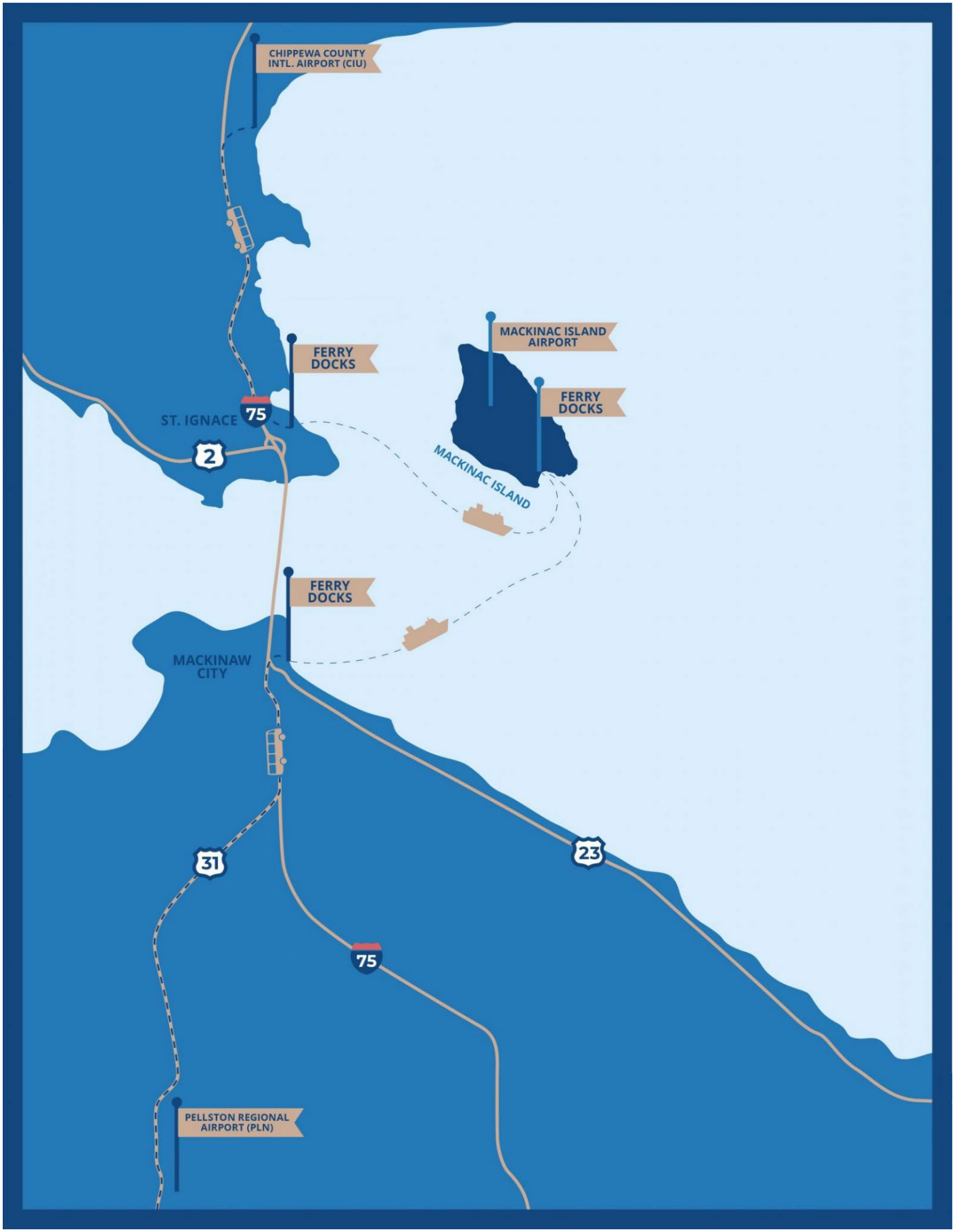
STEP 4: Once on Mackinac Island, travel to Grand Hotel

HORSE CARRIAGE TRANSPORTATION OR WALKING

Upon arrival at Shepler's dock on Mackinac Island, horse carriages are readily available to provide transportation to Grand Hotel ($9.00/person, $4.50/child ages 5-12, payable in cash only). There are no motorized vehicles on the island. Shepler's personnel will be available to assist in identifying horse carriage availability. Alternatively, you can walk to Grand Hotel, a 15-20-minute walk that includes a large hill.

Questions?

If additional assistance is needed, please contact the Mackinac Roundtable on Talent team at info@roundtableontalent.com or 248.356.3114.


CHIPPEWA COUNTY INTL. AIRPORT (CIU)
FERRY DOCKS
MACKINAC ISLAND AIRPORT
FERRY DOCKS
ST. IGNACE
75
2
MACKINAC ISLAND
FERRY DOCKS
MACKINAW CITY
31
23
75
PELLSTON REGIONAL AIRPORT (PLN)