DateMichigan is a very beautiful wildlife state. Michigan is a midwestern U.S. state bordering 4 of the Great Lakes. It contains more than 11,000 inland lakes, spread across its lower and upper peninsulas. Its largest city, Detroit, is famed as the seat of the U.S. auto industry, which inspired Diego Rivera’s murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Also, in Detroit is Hartsville U.S.A., original headquarters of the Motown record company. While Michigan ranks first among the states in production of motor vehicles and parts, it is also a leader in many other manufacturing and processing lines, including prepared cereals, machine tools, airplane parts, refrigerators, hardware, and furniture.

Michigan is made up of multiple different Indian tribes. Indian tribes were living in the Michigan region when the first European of France, arrived in 1618. Other French explorers, including Jacques Marquette, Louis Joliet, and Sieur de la Salle, followed, and the first permanent settlement was established in 1668 at Sault Ste. Marie. France was ousted from the territory by Great Britain in 1763, following the French and Indian Wars. After the Revolutionary War, the U.S. acquired most of the region, which remained the scene of constant conflict between the British and U.S. forces and their respective Indian allies through the War of 1812.

Following the prehistoric inhabitants, Michigan's residents were the tribal groups of Ojibwa, Ottawa and Potawatomi Native Americans. The first Europeans were the French and French-Canadians in the 1600s and early 1700s, followed by the British in the late 1700s. The great waves of immigration into Michigan began in the early 1800s, as New Englanders moved into Michigan's southern counties in large numbers. Attracted to the state's lumber, mining and automobile industries, at least 40 national and ethnic groups arrived in sizeable numbers during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Dutch, Germans and Poles were among the largest of these later groups. In more recent migrations many African-Americans and people of Asians, Near Eastern or Hispanic origin have made Michigan their home. So many ethnic groups are present in the state that weekly ethnic festivals in Detroit begin in May and continue through September each year.

Today's population of 9,995,915 is a highly centralized one. Thirty-five of the 83 counties have populations of more than 50,000. Twenty Michigan counties have more than 100,000 people. All but two of these counties are in the southern half of the Lower Peninsula. Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties alone account for almost 40 percent of the state's population. The 15 counties of the Upper Peninsula comprise just over 3% of the total population at 301,151.

The Great Lakes contain more than 80 percent of North America’s—and more than 20 percent of the world’s—surface fresh water supply. Michigan borders four of the five Great Lakes: Superior, Michigan, Huron and Erie. Bordering the Great Lakes, Michigan is divided into Upper and Lower peninsulas by the Straits of Mackinac, which link lakes Michigan and Huron. The two parts of the state are connected by the Mackinac Bridge, one of the world's longest suspension bridges. To the north, connecting lakes Superior and Huron, are the busy Sault Ste. Marie Canals.

The state produces important amounts of iron, copper, iodine, gypsum, bromine, salt, lime, gravel, and cement. Michigan's farms grow apples, cherries, beans, pears, grapes, potatoes, and sugar beets. Michigan's forests contribute significantly to the state's economy, supporting thousands of jobs in the wood-product, tourism, and recreation industries. Michigan is the 10th largest state in the Union (combined land and water area);58,110 square miles of land,1,305 square miles of inland water and 38,575 square miles of Great Lakes water area.

The state of Michigan is also known for its famous Mackinac Island. This was rated the top destination in the United States to visit.Mackinac Island is an island and resort area, covering 4.35 square miles (11.3 km2) in land area, in the [U.S. state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) of [Michigan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan). It is located in [Lake Huron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Huron), at the eastern end of the [Straits of Mackinac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Straits_of_Mackinac), between the state's [Upper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Peninsula_of_Michigan) and [Lower Peninsulas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_Peninsula_of_Michigan).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island#cite_note-HistplacesPDF-5) The island was home to an [Odawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odawa) settlement before European colonization began in the 17th century. It served a strategic position as a center on the commerce of the [Great Lakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Lakes) [fur trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur_trade). This led to the establishment of [Fort Mackinac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Mackinac) on the island by the [British](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) during the [American Revolutionary War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War). It was the site of two battles during the [War of 1812](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812). In the late 19th century, Mackinac Island became a popular tourist attraction and [summer colony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summer_colony). Much of the island has undergone extensive historical preservation and restoration; as a result, the entire island is listed as a [National Historic Landmark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Historic_Landmark). It is well known for its numerous cultural events; its wide variety of architectural styles, including the [Victorian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victorian_architecture) [Grand Hotel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Hotel_(Mackinac_Island)) and its ban on almost all motor vehicles. More than 80 percent of the island is preserved as [Mackinac Island State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island_State_Park).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island#cite_note-Historic_Treasure-7)Like many historic places in the Great Lakes region, Mackinac Island's name derives from a Native American language. Native Americans in the Straits of Mackinac region likened the shape of the island to that of a turtle so they named it "Mitchimakinak" ([Ojibwe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ojibwe_language): *mishimikinaak*) "Big Turtle".[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island#cite_note-8) [Andrew Blackbird](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Blackbird), an official interpreter for the U.S. government and an Odawa chief's son, said it was named after a tribe that had lived there. Archaeologists have excavated prehistoric fishing camps on Mackinac Island and in the surrounding areas. Fishhooks, pottery, and other artifacts establish a Native American presence at least 700 years before European exploration, around [AD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anno_Domini) 900. The island is a sacred place in the tradition of some of its earliest known inhabitants, the [Anishinaabe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anishinaabe), who consider it to be home to the [Gitchee Manitou](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gitche_Manitou), or the "Great Spirit". According to legend, Mackinac Island was created by the Great Hare, [Michabou](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanabozho) and was the first land to appear after the recession of the [Great Flood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outburst_flood).[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island#cite_note-15) The island was a gathering place for the local tribes where their offerings were made to Gitchee Manitou, and it was the burial place of tribal chiefs.

Mackinac Island was formed as the glaciers of the last [ice age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisconsin_glaciation) began to melt around 13,000 BC. The bedrock strata that underlie the island are much older, dating to Late [Silurian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silurian) and Early [Devonian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devonian) time, about 400 to 420 million years ago. Subsurface deposits of [halite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halite) (rock salt) dissolved, allowing the collapse of overlying limestones; these once-broken but now solidified rocks comprise the Mackinac [Breccia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breccia). The melting glaciers formed the Great Lakes, and the receding lake waters eroded the [limestone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limestone) bedrock, forming the island's steep cliffs and rock formations. At least three previous lake levels are known, two of them higher than the present shore: [Algonquin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glacial_Lake_Algonquin) level lakeshores date to about 13,000 years ago, and the Nipissing level shorelines formed 4,000 to 6,000 years ago.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island#cite_note-Shorelines-31) During an intermediate period of low water between these two high-water stages, the Straits of Mackinac shrank to a narrow gorge which discharged its water over [Mackinac Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Falls), located just east of the island (beyond Arch Rock), into Lake Huron. The island can be reached by private boat, by [ferry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferry), by small aircraft, and in the winter, by [snowmobile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snowmobile) over an [ice bridge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_bridge). The [airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island_Airport) has a 3,500-foot (1,070 m) paved runway, and daily charter air service from the mainland is available.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island#cite_note-38) In the summer tourist season, ferry service is available from [Shepler's Ferry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shepler%27s_Ferry), and [Star Line Ferry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Line_Ferry) to shuttle visitors to the island from [St. Ignace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Ignace,_Michigan) and [Mackinaw City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinaw_City,_Michigan).

Motorized vehicles have been [prohibited](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auto-free_zones) on the island since 1898, with the exception of [snowmobiles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snowmobile) during winter, emergency vehicles, and service vehicles. Travel on the island is either by [foot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walking), [bicycle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicycle), or [horse-drawn carriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse-drawn_carriage). Roller skates and roller blades are also allowed, except in the downtown area. Bicycles, roller skates/roller blades, carriages, and saddle horses are available for rent. An 8-mile (13 km) road follows the island's perimeter, and numerous roads, trails and paths cover the interior.[41][M-185](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M-185_(Michigan_highway)), the United States' only state highway without motorized vehicles, makes a circular loop around the island, closely hugging the shoreline. The island is the location of [Mackinac Island State Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackinac_Island_State_Park), which covers approximately 80 percent of the island and includes [Fort Mackinac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Mackinac) as well as portions of the island's historic [downtown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown) and [harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harbor). No camping is allowed on the island, but numerous hotels and [bed and breakfasts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bed_and_breakfast) are available.

The downtown streets are lined with many retail stores and restaurants. With it is ties to Native American, British, French and even Spanish heritage (in the Niles area in Berrien and Cass counties), Michigan is full of city names that are difficult for many to pronounce and even spell. Yet, no two cities create as much confusion as Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island. The funny thing is, no matter the spelling, the pronunciation is actually the same: Mack-I-naw (as opposed to Mack-I-nac). The mainland area was first named Michilimackinac by the Native Americans. In 1715, the French (who had an established Catholic mission five miles to the north in St. Ignace) built a fort at Michilimackinac. This became a fortified community thriving as an epicenter of the Great Lakes fur trade industry. During their time in the area, the French translated the local language into something more fitting to their own and while spelled with a “c” the sound became “aw.”. While Michilimackinac came under British control in 1761, the fur trade and community life remained relatively unchanged. What did change, however, was the spelling of Mackinac as the Brits decided to spell it the way it sounded: Mackinaw. Yet, oddly the “c” remained the dominant spelling when Michilimackinac was shortened to Mackinac when the fort was disassembled and moved piece by piece from the tip of the mitt over the frozen waters of the straits\* to the 2400-acre Mackinac Island.

**Date of Statehood:** January 26, 1837

**Capital:** Lansing

**Population:** 9,883,640 (2010)

**Size:** 96,713 square miles

**Nickname(s):** Wolverine State; Great Lakes State; Water Winter Wonderland

**Motto:** Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice (“If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you”)

**Tree:** White Pine

**Flower:** Apple Blossom

**Bird:** Robin