**General Information**

* All passengers with horses must reserve a spot on our ferry at least one week in advance. Any horses that are not reserved through us prior to one week will not be able to ride our ferries as we have a lot of passengers and freight during the summer and make special arrangements to accommodate horses.
* Any horse must depart out of St Ignace ONLY – we will not be able to load and transport horses from Mackinaw City. They will depart from Dock #2 (99 N State St) Monday thru Friday ONLY. Please call Ashley at the Mackinac Horseman’s Association to reserve your spot on the ferry.
* Horses are $40 each way ($80 round trip) plus the round trip price of $26 per adult (13 and over) and $14 per child (5 to 12).
	+ These tickets must be purchased at least 24 hours in advance and printed before you arrive. (There is NO printer or ticket seller at Dock #2.)
* We are not equipped to take trailers. Passengers can park their trailer in one of our adjacent lots for free during their stay, but will not be able to get it onto any of our boats.
* If staying overnight, passengers must reserve overnight boarding in advance. No horse is allowed unattended at any point while on the island. Please contact the Mackinac Horsemen’s Association at 906-847-8034 for availability. Visit [www.mackinachorses.org/boarding](http://www.mackinachorses.org/boarding)
* If there is any luggage that is being transported from the hotel to the boat, it is the customer’s responsibility to contact that hotel to make sure their luggage gets back to the Mackinaw City **FREIGHT DOCK RAMP #2** on Mackinac Island (the same place that the boat arrived on the island). This is the boat that the horses ride on and it DOES go back to St Ignace. We strongly recommend packing light and taking your own luggage if possible.
	+ Remember that you will have to transport your luggage, extra tack, etc. from the dock to the hotel/stable and your horse will be with you as well! You may hire a dray (Mackinac Island Service Company | (906)-847-3713) or have a dock porter carry bikes, gear, luggage, etc. The porters work directly for the hotels and you will need to check with them to see if the service is offered. It is recommended to have one person in charge of these items for your group.
* We are equipped to take large groups and 4-H groups! Please give us at least one month notice to reserve your spot! Large groups are limited to a maximum of 20 Horses. Chartering a boat is mandatory for all horse groups of 15 or more, which will be an additional $600 each way. In addition to the charter fee, horses will still be $40 each way ($80 round trip) plus the round trip ticket for humans which would be discounted to $19 per adult (13 and over) and $10 per child (5 to 12) as long as there are at least 20 paying people in the group.

**Planning Process for Ferry Reservations:**

* Contact Ashley Day at Mackinac Horsemen’s Association at 906-847-8034 or email her at info@mackinachorses.org at least one month in advance to reserve your spot on the ferry.
* Return confirmation email understanding all rules/policies/procedures.
* Purchase tickets and print them off at home.
	+ All passengers must have a hard copy in order to get on the ferry and there is not a ticket sell or printer at Dock #2.
* Get all important paperwork together: **Required before boarding the ferry to the island**
	+ Current Negative Coggins
	+ Copy of vaccinations
	+ Health Certificate within the last 30 days (if traveling from out of state)
* Confirm your hotel reservations if staying overnight, make sure any luggage that is not being transported personally gets to where it needs to go on the return – Mackinaw City ***FREIGHT*** Dock Ramp #2 (the same place as when arriving on the island).

**Barn at Home:**

* Our ferries run on a tight schedule, so it is important to pack as much as you can the night before you leave. Packing the night before cuts down on running around last minute. There aren’t tack shops on the island there is limited veterinarian/farrier help so it is important to be prepared. Below are a few suggested check lists for your travel. Please feel free to contact Mackinac Horsemen’s Association as equipment may be available if needed.
	+ First Aid Kit
		- Disinfectant
		- Gauze Pads
		- Vet Wrap
		- Scissors
		- Bute/Anti-Inflammatory
		- Electrolytes
	+ Grooming Kit
		- Brushes/Combs
		- Hoof Pick
		- Rags
		- Fly Spray
		- Fly Mask
	+ Traveling Kit
		- Spare Halter/Lead
		- Trailer Ties
		- Hay Net & Hay
		- Feed
		- Treats
		- Travel Boots
		- Muck Bucket
		- Rake/Shovel
		- Water Bucket
		- Water from Home
	+ Tack Kit
		- Saddle
		- Bridle
		- Spare Reins
		- Saddle Pad
		- Girth
		- Lunge Line
		- Lunge Whip
	+ Riders Kit
		- Riding Boots
		- Pants
		- Shirts
		- Rain Jacket
		- Helmet
		- Gloves
* It is important to allow enough time to load the horse into the trailer (especially if they do not load well) as well as extra time for travel. This is a big tourist area in the summer with many events, so there may be a lot of traffic involved. It is always better to arrive way early since our boats to leave at the exact departure times.
* If you can, please brush your horse before you leave your barn. There is a lot going on at our docks during the summer with many people around. Everything takes time and we run a very strict schedule. There is not always enough time as one may think!

**Crossing the Bridge/Travel:**

* When traveling from the Lower Peninsula of Michigan to get to the Upper Peninsula and St Ignace, you will have to cross the Mackinac Bridge.
	+ It costs $4 per truck/car plus $2 per axle.
	+ There is a mandatory MDA inspection station after the tollbooths.
	+ A current Coggins for in-state travelers is required.
	+ They also require a current Health Certificate for out of state travelers.
* If you are in need of overnight boarding before reaching the island, Hiawatha Hawk Ranch in Mackinaw City, MI and Gaylord Equestrian Center in Gaylord, MI accepts overnight horse boarders based on availability. Please contact them directly for more information.
	+ Hiawatha Hawk – Angie Ostman: 231-420-4544
	+ Hiawatha Hawk – Joe Ostman: 231-445-2495

**At the Ferry Dock:**

* As mentioned previously, our boats have a very strict schedule to keep. Please arrive at least one to two hours prior to your scheduled departure time. It will take time to travel, find the dock, unload, park the trailer, tack the horse up, load onto the ferry, take care of luggage if staying overnight, etc., We want this to be a pleasant experience for everyone involved.
* Our Freight Dock or Dock #2 is located at 99 N State St, Saint Ignace, MI 49781.
* Please pull in and park in the lot south of our main entrance (between our dock and Ace Hardware) in the gravel lot.
* Once your horse in unloaded from the trailer, it is recommended to take them up so there is less for you to carry.
* It is important that the boat gets loaded in a timely manner. There may be other passengers or freight being loaded so please make sure to listen to the Captain as to when to load the horse(s) onto the boat.
* If traveling with other horses, know which horses do or do not get along with each other and inform the Captain/leader upon arrival. In large groups, we line the horses up before loading the boat and if there is a chart or list of the order you would like to load the horses, the smoother the process will be.
* Our ferries are steel and coated with slip proof paint, be steel shod horses may have slipping issues.
* If you are staying overnight and have luggage, we will have special luggage tags waiting for you at the dock on the mainland when you arrive.
* ***THE CAPTAIN OF THE BOAT HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE/CANCEL ANY HORSE/TRIP IF HE/SHE DEEMS IT TO BE UNSAFE FOR STAFF MEMBERS, PASSANGERS OR HORSES.***
* Having a thousand pound animal on a boat traveling in the middle of the lake can be potentially dangerous. In order to help prevent any safety concerns, we ask that only one person stand by the horses head where tied while underway. Anyone else is invited to sit on the upper deck of the boat or near the hull away from the horses.

**On the Island:**

* Once on the island, you are in the heart of downtown. There is **no riding** allowed downtown and you must lead your horse out of the busy area before you mount.
* Other rules of the island:
	+ No horse is ever allowed to be left unattended.
	+ No trotting or cantering is allowed on pavement.
	+ Carriages have the right away.
		- Do not canter up behind them.
		- Do not pass without warning the driver.
		- Approach them as if you were driving a car.

**The Return Trip:**

* The boat will depart the island from the Mackinaw City Freight Dock #1 at Ramp #2. (The exact same place that you arrived.) This will go back to St Ignace! It is the only dock that is capable to hold horses. Please arrive early as the boat has a strict schedule it must follow.
* If you had any luggage from the dray service or from a porter, make sure your luggage ends up at the same spot that you do.

**Contact Information:**

* If you have any other comments/questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at:
	+ Andrea Green, Group Sales Director – Star Line Mackinac Island Ferry
		- 800-638-9892 \*108
		- andrea.green@mackinacferry.com
	+ Sid Hawkins, Freight Manager – Star Line Mackinac Island Ferry
		- 906-298-1737
	+ Ashley Day, Facility and Programs Manager – Mackinac Horseman’s Association
		- 906-847-8034
		- info@mackinachorses.org