



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.) or Dock 1 (253 N. State St.) during our peak season only. Please call or email us to set up the location/time and reserve your spot on our ferry!
- Horses are \$30 each way (\$60 round trip) plus the round trip price of \$26 per person.
 - These tickets must be purchased at least 24 hours in advance and printed before you arrive. (If ordered online there is an option to receive an email from us and print them from home. 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
- 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 the 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](tel:9068473713).) 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! We do recommend chartering a boat which is an additional \$500 each way (only an additional \$20 per person each way in a group of 25 horses) but there is a discounted ticket rate for these groups!
- All horses must be lead through downtown and cannot be mounted until outside of the busy area away from all carriage and human traffic.

Planning Process for Ferry Reservation:

- Contact Star Line Ferry at 800-638-9892 or email at horse@mackinawferry.com at least one week in advance to reserve your spot on the ferry.
- Return the confirmation email understanding all rules/policies/procedures.



- Purchases tickets & print them off at home.
 - All passengers must have a hard copy in order to get on our ferry and there is not a ticket seller or printer at Dock 2.
- Contact Mackinac Horseman's Association to reserve a stall at info@mackinachorses.org | www.mackinachorses.org | 906-847-8034.
- Get all important paperwork together: **Required before boarding the ferry to the island**
 - Current Coggins
 - Health Certificate within the last 30 days.
- If staying over night, set up your hotel and 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 are no tack shops on the island and 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 do 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
 - Gaylord Equestrian Center: Liz Koscielniak-989-858-1882

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. 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 over night, etc. We want this to be a pleasant experience for everyone involved.

- There are a few different options for parking your truck and trailer.
 - If traveling out of Dock 2:
 - Unload your horse(s) at the dock and have another member of your party park the trailer in our adjacent lot while one holds the horse(s).
 - Park the trailer in the adjacent lot to our dock and walk the tacked up horse(s) to the dock (it is a very short distance).
 - If traveling out of Dock 1:
 - If there is room in the lot adjacent to Dock 1, either of the above options are available.
 - If there is not room at this lot, you can unload your horse at the dock and have another member of your party park the trailer at our Dock 2 lot. Talk to our dock staff and they can send a shuttle to pick up the driver of the truck & trailer and bring them back down to Dock 1.
- Once the horse is unloaded from the trailer, it is recommended to tack 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, but it is important to listen to the captain/leader 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, but steel shod horses may have slipping issues.
- If you are staying overnight and have luggage, you can drop it off at the dock to get tagged or you can carry it with you. Please see luggage recommendations in the above *General Information* section.

On the Ferry:

- All horses **MUST** be tied to the rail on the boat during the entire duration of the trip. **NO EXCEPTIONS**-this is a major safety concern in case any horse was to get loose.
 - They must stay tied until the boat is docked and the ramp is down. Please **wait** for a Star Line employee to tell you it is ok to untie your horse.
- 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 cantering is allowed on pavement.
 - Carriages have the right a way.
 - 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:
 - horse@mackinawferry.com
 - 800-638-9892
- We hope you have a great time with your horse on the island! 😊