MACKINAC ISLAND

Mackinac Island is an island and resort area, covering 3.8 square miles. There are many reasons why the Island is so popular in the summertime: great weather, lots of places to stay and dine, and lots of outdoor activities! It is a place filled with forts, rugged outdoor activities like hiking, breathtaking coastal views, carriage tours, and horseback riding. A popular item at the candy shops is the locally produced Mackinac Island fudge, leading to tourists sometimes being referred to as "fudgies". Students have been working on Mackinac Island for more than 10 years and they like doing so because most employers provide housing and there are a lot of students working on the Island in the summer, so you get to meet lots of new people. Since this is an island, there are great kayaking, boating, sailing and fishing options. Just ask your employer how to take advantage of these fun activities! There are also no cars on the island, so you need to know how to ride a bike. Most employers will help you with renting a bike for the summer. Mackinac Island has many popular night clubs with nightly music and performances. There are also local pubs that host pub crawls that appeal to both visitors and seasonal workers!

WEATHER

CITIES & AIRPORTS

Closest international airport: Detroit Metro Airport (DTW)
Closest international airport: Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)
About 20 minutes from Cheboygan, Michigan
About a 30 minute ferry ride from Mackinaw City
About 45 minutes from Petoskey, Michigan

COMMUNITY GROUPS & RESOURCES

No organized group. However, the Island is very J-1 friendly and employers are hands-on and make sure students have access to bikes and cultural activities when not working.
THINGS TO DO & CULTURAL EVENTS

- Visit Mackinac Island State Park, Fort Mackinac or Arch Rock
- Participate in some events like volleyball, soccer or yoga through the recreation department
- Kayak on the lake
- Take a walking tour of the Island
- Go hiking
- Listen to live music performances at popular night clubs

PROS & CONS

PRO: All employers provide housing. Island life is really fun for students!! The island community is very used to having international exchange visitors so there are lots of seasonal employees working on the Island, and lots of socializing.

CON: No vehicles on the island. Students must know how to ride a bike. There is a long bus ride from Detroit or Chicago upon arrival. Closest city (aside from Mackinac Island) is 45 minutes via shuttle or employer transportation.

HOT TIPS

If students want to change their housing, there are not a lot of options since most employers provide housing with the job. Make sure you know how to ride a bike.

MAP OF THE AREA

http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/USA/michigan_map.htm