

Mackinac Island by boat: Magical!



Julie Candler
Allan Hayes

The horse-drawn society on Mackinac Island appeals to rag sailors, who frequently take a dim view of the internal combustion engine--at least until they get becalmed.

Mackinac Island is by bicycle or horse, as all automobiles are prohibited. That attracts power boaters as well as sailors, and anyone else who likes a beautiful, peaceful setting for a trip somewhere in time.

The island's personality is defined by the presence of the immense, historic Grand Hotel, which reigns from a hilltop like a Victorian-era castle.

"The island is a fun place to come to," says Keith Bailey of Mason, Michigan. He visits it frequently aboard *Ill Cheers*, his 28-foot Carver

Riviera cruiser. He docks his boat for the season at Duncan's Bay Marina near Cheboygan, after moving it from Charlevoix to be closer to Mackinac Island.

We talk at the state docks at the south end of the island, where Bailey and two friends are having Bloody Marys and chips before lunch. It's a weekend in mid May, and they're mixing their fun with scrubbing, waxing and other chores needed to get the boat ready for the season.

Says Bailey, "I've had *Ill Cheers* here for the past three weekends. It's so peaceful and quiet--no cars. It's a great place for biking and roller-blading, and my kids love the horses and the fort."



WHAT A VIEW— With Fort Mackinac behind them, a sailboat crew relaxes at the Mackinac Island Marina. From left are Bartle Wilkes of Alma, Michigan, brother Paul, father Jody, and friend Dan Plank.

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