



Colonial Michilimackinac Social Story Guide



Hello!

We are so excited that you will be visiting us soon! We hope you will find this **Social Story Guide** helpful before and during your visit. This guide can be helpful in planning visits for anyone who would like to know what to expect. This preview of your visit may help you to picture what it will be like to visit and choose what you would like to experience. If you would like a map of the exhibits, you can find one at the Visitor's Center when you arrive or at our website at mackinacparks.com.



Colonial Michilimackinac Visitor Information

I can bring drinks and food to snack on if I need to. There may also be water and some snacks available in the Visitor's Center or the Hearthside Museum Store inside the fort. If I get thirsty, there are water fountains near the restrooms.

I will not throw or kick gravel, sticks or anything else while I am visiting the fort. There is a playground near the Visitor's Center if I need to use up some energy. There is a big grassy area outside the fort that is also ok to run on if I need to.

Sometimes there may be loud noises from the artillery weapons, muskets or from people announcing programs. They will all be over quickly.

I might smell unfamiliar smells from woodsmoke, cooking or black powder weapons and are part of the museum experience. Usually, the smells go away with the wind.

The temperature can change fast at Colonial Michilimackinac. Most days it is useful to bring a jacket, just in case I might need one.

I'm going to visit Colonial Michilimackinac. Sometimes people call it Fort Michilimackinac. It is a museum that is a recreation of what used to be there in the 1700s. The parking lot is located underneath the Mackinac Bridge. The bridge is almost 5 miles long and connects the lower peninsula of Michigan to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Traffic from the Mackinac Bridge can be very noisy overhead.



When I get there, I will first go into the Visitor's Center. I may need to buy a ticket at the admissions desk. I can get a map that will have the locations of bathrooms, exhibits and other interesting things to see. The map has a schedule that will tell me when programs, tours and demonstrations will be taking place.



Once I leave the Visitor's Center, I will be on a path walking toward Colonial Michilimackinac. The path is along the lakeshore and has some benches to rest and signs to look at.



It is ok to walk along the beach, but swimming in the water here can be dangerous and is not recommended.



As I walk along the path, I will see canoes and a cannon. I will not go under any ropes. They are there to keep me safe.



Colonial Michilimackinac looks like a big wooden fort. The path to get inside is along the shore of Lake Michigan and can be windy. It is outside, so sometimes there can also be bugs. Along the path there will be benches to rest and signs that tell me about what I am seeing and the history of the area.



I may meet people wearing historic clothing. They are like teachers and will be able to answer questions about the history of the fort and the things I am seeing. Their clothing may look different from what I am used to, but it is meant to help me learn about the clothes that people used to wear in the past. I should not touch them.



The entrance to get into the fort is a large gate in the wall that is facing the water.



Most notable locations will be numbered, and the numbers match up to the numbers on the site map. It is best to follow them in order, but if I go out of order, I can also just check them off to be sure I don't miss anything.



The first building, building number 5, as well as the rest of the buildings in the fort have exhibits that I can read and look at to learn about the people, events and things that I am seeing.



Building number 5 and building number 7 have sections of the floor covered with glass. It is safe and is there so that I can see what is underground. In building number 7 I can go downstairs to look more closely.



Sometimes I may be able to smell woodsmoke, cooking or old buildings while I am visiting.



There may be noises from other people moving through the spaces. I will stay calm and take a break whenever I need to.



Some of the buildings have underground areas, sort of like basements that I can explore. These areas are also often quieter than the spaces upstairs. If I need a break or want to avoid the loud noises from the artillery and musket demonstrations, these basement areas can be very good places to go.



The first building inside this gate has a movie in it that explains the history of the fort. It is a good place to start my visit inside. I can sit down and listen. The video re-starts every 20 minutes.



The people wearing historic clothing will be announcing programs and demonstrations before they start them in the middle of the fort near the flagpole. There are benches there that I can sit on if I want to listen. If I am not sure, I can ask to learn more about it. The schedule for these programs is in the site map.



Some of the buildings may have more people wearing historic clothing talking in them. They are there to answer questions and tell me about what I am seeing.



There will also be many things to see and explore. I will ask before I touch things.



There is an archaeological excavation taking place near the center of the fort. It is a large pit in the ground surrounded by barrels with a chain strung between them. I will stay outside the chain. I can look at the archaeologists digging and sorting through the sand to find artifacts when they are there. They will answer my questions about the items that they are finding. Sometimes they use water to help them find the smallest artifacts.



There is an exhibit, restrooms, a water fountain and a museum store in building number 20. It is the largest building in the fort and has flat boards on the roof.



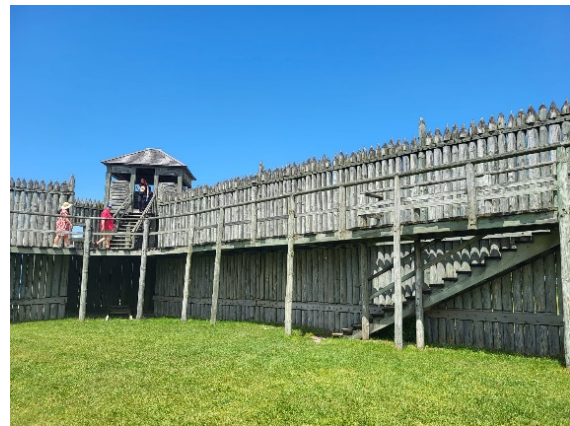
I might see real fire in a fireplace or in a fire pit. The people wearing historic clothing often use these to teach about how people in the past used fire in their everyday lives. I will not try to touch the fire or throw anything into it. They are safe as long as I don't get too close.



If I get lost or need help I can ask one of the people who are wearing historic clothing to help me. There are also people working in the museum store that I can ask. They wear purple shirts and nametags.



I can walk around the top of the wall of the fort on the palisade. The views are beautiful, and I might see a boat out on the lake. I should walk carefully, especially when I am going up and down the steps.



When it is time for me to leave, I can go out the same way that I came in, or out the opposite gate. Both ways lead back to the Visitor's Center underneath the Mackinac Bridge.



Thank you so much for visiting Colonial Michilimackinac! We hope you enjoyed your visit and can come to see us again.