

great escapes close to home

Michigan's Mackinac Island

Believe it or not, there's actually a spot in Michigan where cars aren't allowed. Located off the state's northern coast, Mackinac (pronounced *Mackinaw*) Island is a summer haven for tourists, along with Michigan's and Chicago's upper crust, and home year-round to a small number of locals. The only way to arrive is by boat or plane. Once on the island, horse-drawn carriages, bikes, and leg power are the preferred methods of transportation.

For the ultimate in rest and relaxation, try the Mission Point Resort, which is set on 18 lush acres and includes a spa, a gym, and 236 guest rooms. The resort caters to singles, couples, and especially to families with children. Its free "Kids' Klub" offers outdoor activities and

games supervised by a trained staff. Adult activities include hiking, biking, in-line skating, horseback riding, and chartered sailing. But best of all is lounging in one of the white Adirondack chairs lining the grassy coast of the Straits of Mackinac,

counting the stars.

Mission Point Resort is open from May through October; call (800) 833-7711 or (906) 847-3312. For general information about Mackinac Island, call the Chamber of Commerce at (906) 847-6418.

—Shauna Simmons



Relax big-time on Michigan's Mackinac Island. And don't forget to stake out your lounge-forever chair at the Mission Point Resort (above).

Horsing Around in Kentucky

Lexington, Kentucky, is a horse-lover's dream. The rolling hills surrounding the city create a perfect getaway, where the loudest sound you'll hear is a horse's neigh. More than 350 horse farms dot the heart of the bluegrass region, and several offer tours by appointment, including Three Chimneys (home of Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew) and Claiborne Farm (Secretariat's resting place). These are the

places to bone up on horse facts. (For example, did you know that a healthy stallion can be bred to 75 mares in a season?) Tours are free, but expect to tip your groom

guides \$5 to \$10.

For excitement, spend a day at the races. Top-ranked Keeneland Race Course holds meets in April and October (reserved weekend seating is \$7.50), and from mid-March to November you can watch the horses' morning workouts while contemplating the sunrise. Take a guided tour of the Kentucky Horse Center, where thoroughbreds train to race. Kentucky Horse Park, with its equine museums, Parade of Breeds shows, and horseback riding, is ideal for kids and adults (admission is \$9.95; \$4.95 for children). Overall, Lexington is a great low-cost escape for singles, couples, and families—my double-queen-size room at the Wilson Inn cost \$49.95 a night, including a full breakfast bar. For more information, call the Lexington Convention and Visitors' Bureau at (800) 845-3959. —Toni Brett ▽



Racing around Keeneland in April and October.

