

September 4 – St. Ignace MI

We wanted to try [Java Joes](#) for breakfast due to the great reviews. We got there by 9:30, but alas the line spilled all over the parking lot. So we went to [Galleys](#), an upscale pricey restaurant. Galleys had only one selection, the breakfast buffet so we gave it a go. It was better than Hamptons continental breakfast.

After gathering up the dogs we set out for [Mackinaw City](#), making our first excursion over the [Mackinac Bridge](#). The bridge is a suspension bridge that spans 5 miles. Mackinac City is significantly more prosperous and very dog friendly. Shop owners invited us in because they loved dogs, water bowls were out along the sidewalks, and Stevie tried to swim in all of them. It was fun walking through the touristy parts of the city, lots of happy shop owners and customers, all in good moods. Olivia even let a kid pet her, well almost.



[Colonial Michilimackinac](#) has a historical fort located near the end of the bridge. There were quite a number of people enjoying the park by the bridge, it was amazing scenery and a beautiful day. The fort was well worth the visit, the artifacts and stories were interesting. In the reconstruction they included things like gardens for each unit in the row houses, and fires in fireplaces. The fort was used for fur trading mostly with few people living there during the winter months. It was well worth the time.



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We found a park, [Headlands State Park](#) with recommended hikes. The area was very pleasant with few people. The dogs experienced pure joy, running free and swimming. There were a couple of hikers walking their large Doberman who was as afraid of Olivia as Olivia was of him, so both dogs treaded lightly to get around each other. There is also a Dark Skies Park, which we took a drive through. It was still daylight, but cool park and it would be fun to visit in the dark.



Previously we had scoped out a restaurant we wanted to try in downtown Mackinaw City, [Dixie Saloon](#). They built an entire row of booths outdoors. This place was very, very busy, however we got a booth right away, the last one. The inside was packed, with a wait list and servers running around everywhere. The service was slow, and this suits us very well, dining should be an experience. The food was better than the Golden Coral.

Home again, home again. The dogs will sleep for 2 days.

