

One of America's most beloved romances

# Somewhere in Time

A collage of film-related items including a clapperboard, a film reel, and a film strip against a blue background with bokeh circles. The clapperboard is black and white with a striped top and a table with columns for PROD., ROLL, SCENE, TAKE, DIRECTOR, CAMERA, and DATE. The film reel is a large, golden-colored reel with a film strip winding around it. The film strip is black with white sprocket holes and is curved across the bottom of the image.

**Visit Mackinac Island and relive this romantic fantasy, where famous scenes were shot and residents still talk about being film extras and meeting the actors.**

*“Somewhere in Time” is one of America’s  
most beloved romances starring  
Christopher Reeve, Jane Seymour and  
Christopher Plummer.*

The film’s premise begins with a playwright named Richard Collier, played by Christopher Reeve, who becomes infatuated with a photograph of a young woman at the island’s Grand Hotel. Through self-hypnosis, he travels back in time to the year 1912 and has a love affair with actress Elise McKenna, played by Jane Seymour.

Although seemingly destined to be together, Elise’s jealous manager, portrayed by Christopher Plummer, attempts to keep them apart. Will Richard be able to remain in the early 20th century time dimension?

Find out as you step back in time, too.

Relive this romantic fantasy by touring Mackinac Island, where residents still talk about the fun of being a film extra or meeting the actors.

Mackinac Island was named one of the top 10 most beautiful islands in the world by National Geographic *Traveler Magazine*. No cars are allowed—instead, tour the area by horse-drawn carriage, bicycle or stroll downtown to experience the island’s Victorian atmosphere.





Your adventure begins by sailing aboard one of three ferry lines — Star Line, Arnold Line or Shepler’s — to breathtaking Mackinac Island. All three ferries offer outstanding photo opportunities of the island, the **Mackinac Bridge** and the **Round Island Lighthouse**.

Once you arrive, take a “horse taxi” to one of several dozen Victorian era hotels on the island for your overnight stay. Two hotels are actual locations in the movie: the **Grand Hotel** and **Mission Point Resort**.

More than half of the film was shot at Grand Hotel, the world’s largest summer hotel. It sits on a scenic bluff overlooking the Straits of Mackinac and the Mackinac



PHOTO: GRAND HOTEL

Bridge. Its 390 boldly decorated rooms were styled by renowned interior designer Carlton Varney.

Look for the **“Is it you?” plaque** commemorating the site where Elise meets Richard for the first time and asks, “Is it you? Is it?” The plaque is attached to a boulder located on the grounds of the hotel, past the pool house, lakeside, with a view of the Mackinac Bridge in the background.

The **Grand Hotel’s famous front porch**, the world’s largest at 660 feet, was used for a morning scene with Richard Collier. The porch’s center staircase was also the location of Richard and Elise’s happy reunion.

The inside parlor floor was used for the check-in scenes, and the china cabinet seen in the film is still in the parlor.

Several scenes were filmed in the main dining room. Enjoying the Grand Luncheon Buffet at the hotel is a must-do experience. The Grand welcomes the general public, whether or not they’re staying at the hotel. If staying for dinner,

the Grand Hotel Orchestra strikes up the film’s instrumental theme music. Romantic couples on the dance floor or at their tables feel as if they’re being transported “somewhere in time.”

After dinner, head up to the top of the hotel and enjoy cocktails in the **Cupola Bar**. The bar offers a panoramic view of the Mackinac Bridge. During the early 1800s, the Grand Hotel’s manager would go to the top of the hotel, now the Cupola Bar, and watch for the steamships and their passengers to arrive. Once the ships were in view, he would run down the stairs to alert the staff by shouting, “The guests are coming! The guests are coming!”

One of the film’s more dramatic scenes involves Christopher Reeve at the top of the stairs that lead down to the courtyard’s pool area where Jane Seymour is waiting for him. While rushing to meet her, Reeve fell and tore the knee out of his pants, delaying filming.

The **tennis pro shops** were used for Arthur’s cottage. They’re located down the hill from the hotel next to the tennis courts.

Each year on the last weekend in October, the hotel commemorates this iconic film by hosting a **Somewhere in Time weekend**. Guests are invited to make a cameo appearance — in costume — at the cocktail receptions, costume promenade, and Grand Luncheon Buffet. The event includes a screening of the film, discussions of the movie’s production process, and appearances by returning

PHOTO: GRAND HOTEL



cast. Jane Seymour is routinely in attendance; in 2015, she surprised guests with a replica of Elise McKenna’s dress she wore in the film.

After touring the Grand Hotel, explore the entire island. **Mackinac Island Carriage Tours** offer narrated tours and is the signature experience on the island. You’ll travel by horse-drawn carriage and hear the island’s colorful local history and Indian legends. You’ll stop at **Surrey Hill**, **Wings of Mackinac Butterfly Conservatory**, **Arch Rock**, **Historic Fort Mackinac**, and the Grand Hotel.

Arch Rock is one of the most photographed spots on Mackinac Island. The arch itself reaches 150 feet over the clear blue waters of the Straits of Mackinac. Indian tradition states this is where the Great Creator blew the breath of life into the newly formed earth.





Arch Rock, Mackinac Island

Wooden stairways lead up to the top of the rock.

Once you arrive at Fort Mackinac, be sure to stop at the tea room overlooking the bluff and the Straits of Mackinac. It's one of the most delightful settings on the island. Dine within the walls of the historic fort or relax on the patio with a lemonade and take in the spectacular view.

Bicycle riding is one of the more popular activities on the island and visitors will find bike rental companies along downtown's Main Street. For the more adventurous, guided kayaking excursions are available. Paddle the calm waters in the bay and marina, or explore the island's natural rock formations, wildlife and lighthouses.

**B**egin your next day downtown on Main Street. **Baxter's Coin Shop** is located next to Murdick's Fudge Shop. The word "Baxter's" is still displayed on the glass and is a reminder of where Richard purchased his 1910-era coins. Today, the shop sells souvenirs to visitors.

An island tourist is referred to locally as a "fudgie." And that's because fudge is the No. 1 island souvenir. **Mackinac Island fudge** is made fresh daily at a multitude of fudge shops. Once you taste one of the seemingly endless varieties, you'll be hooked!

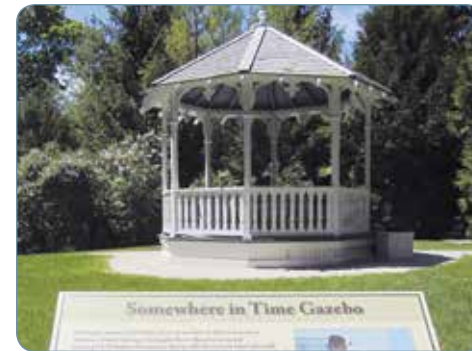
A short walk outside of town on Main Street, just past St. Anne's Church, is the **Laura Roberts House**. This is where

Richard finds out more information from Elise's caretaker.

The island schoolhouse acted as the exterior of the theater where Elise performed "Wisdom of the Heart." The grounds outside the school were also where the **gazebo** stood. Today, the gazebo is on a wooded bluff just east of Fort Mackinac. The gazebo was given to the people of Michigan by the film company.

Pay a visit to **Windemere Park**, the site of Richard and Elise's day together in the park. It's also the same site where Richard, upon returning to the present, stares off in the distance at the Round Island Lighthouse.

**Mission Point Resort** overlooks the beautiful sparkling waters of the Straits of Mackinac and is only a 15–20 minute walk from downtown. At the time of filming, Mission Point Resort was Mackinac State College and served as home base for the production staff. The prop shop, carpenter shop, administration offices, theater, classrooms, warehouses for costumes, dressing and make-up rooms



were all housed here. The facility had a huge soundstage and it was used for all interior shots: Elise's and Richard's rooms, both past and present; the attic; the hallway; and the "limbo set" at the end. Surprisingly, the cast and crew actually stayed in the dorm rooms. Subsequently, the dorms were refurbished and are now part of Mission Point Resort.

All interior theater scenes were filmed in **Mission Point's theater**. Today, guests can watch movies there and even sit in the same seat that Richard Collier sat in while watching Elise perform. An engraved plaque designates it as Christopher Reeves' seat.

In the evening, take an adventure into the unknown on a "**Haunts of Mackinac Haunted History**" tour. Cloaked guides will lead you by lantern on a 90-minute journey through the legendary streets of downtown Mackinac Island. Along the way you'll learn many of the island's ghost stories and the sometimes tragic history behind them.



Once you depart Mackinac Island and arrive back on the mainland, head to the harbor towns of **Petoskey**, **Charlevoix** and **Traverse City** to see spectacular panoramic lakeshore and forest views.

Only 40 minutes southwest of Mackinac, **Cross Village** is home to the iconic restaurant **Legs Inn**. A state historic site, Legs Inn is a monument to nature, not to mention extraordinary Polish cuisine. The outdoor patio, situated high above Lake Michigan, offers a breathtaking view. Inside, the twisted and tormented forms of trees have

been fashioned into beautiful pieces of furniture, fixtures and artwork.

Next enjoy a curvy, twisting drive along the **Tunnel of Trees** on state highway M-119. The road traces an ancient Native American trail along a spectacular bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. While the Tunnel of Trees is gorgeous year-round, in the fall, bright reds, yellows and oranges explode at every bend in the road. When the route brings you to the village of Good Hart, be sure to stop at the **Good Hart General Store**, where travelers have stocked up since 1934.

Continue through the resort town of **Harbor Springs** which offers great boutique shopping. Afterward, relax at the Pier Restaurant and watch the sunset over the water.

Travel on to the charming harbor town of **Petoskey**, once the summer home of Ernest Hemingway. Check out the **Gaslight District** downtown, a blend of restaurants, shopping and

nightly entertainment.

Further south lies the city of **Charlevoix**. Fondly referred to as “Charlevoix the Beautiful,” it’s easy to see why. Flowers bloom throughout the downtown and there’s a charming drawbridge from which you can watch the yachts and sailboats cruise through the channel.

A must-see are the **mushroom houses**. Commonly referred to as “fairy houses” or “gnome homes,” Charlevoix is the only place in the world you can find these uniquely built homes designed by famous architect Earl Young. The Charlevoix Historical Society offers walking tours through **Boulder Park**, the neighborhood where these whimsical homes are located. Top off your tour with a stop at the Weathervane Restaurant in downtown Charlevoix. It’s nestled right next to the drawbridge and was designed by the same architect who designed the mushroom houses.

Miles of sandy beach and bluffs towering 450-feet above Lake Michigan, as well as lush forests and clear inland lakes, compose the sweeping landscape of **Sleeping Bear Dunes**. Sleeping Bear Dunes is one of two Michigan national lakeshores and was voted by “Good Morning America” viewers as one of the top 10 most beautiful places to visit in the country. Adventurous? Try conquering the dunes by climbing to the top and witnessing breathtaking views of Lake Michigan. Climbing not your style? Viewing platforms jutting out over



the dunes and lake offer spectacular views, too.

After a day on the dunes, what could be a better than sitting outside on a summer or fall evening sipping a glass of wine on **Grand Traverse Bay**? Over 40 wineries and tasting rooms on **Old Mission** and **Leelanau Peninsula** offer award-winning wines and boast some of the most beautiful scenery in the country. Huge rolling hills are blanketed in acres of vineyards and fruit orchards, including more than 2.5 million cherry trees, earning **Traverse City** the designation of “Cherry Capital of the World.”

### SUGGESTED SIDE TRIP

Escape to **Beaver Island**. Locals call it the “Emerald Isle” because of the beautiful blue-green waters surrounding it and because of its Irish heritage. **Beaver Island Boat Excursions** depart on a regular basis from the Charlevoix harbor. The island offers shopping, lodging, restaurants and galleries. Overnight in Charlevoix or in Petoskey at one of many resort properties.



PHOTO: PETOSKEY AREA VISITOR BUREAU

## DID YOU KNOW?

**In 1895 Mark Twain lectured at the Grand Hotel; admission was a dollar.**

Thomas Edison gave his first public demonstration of his phonograph on the famous front porch of the hotel.

**Many of the scenes filmed in the main dining room were actually shot at night when most guests were sleeping so as not to interfere with their stay.**

1970s sex symbol Bo Derek was considered for the role of Elise.

**The dozens of actresses who auditioned for the role of Elise were all asked if they'd ever been in love before. Jane Seymour was the only actress who answered, "No."**

Elise's line "Is it you?" was actually flubbed by Jane Seymour and she had to rerecord it in post-production.

**Jane Seymour came for her audition as Elise wearing a 1912-era gown and hairdo and basically said, "I am Elise McKenna and I have to play this part."**

After Christopher Reeve's death, his mother booked a cruise ship that was traveling to Mackinac Island. Once the ship docked, she requested a carriage to pick her up and take her to the Grand Hotel. She spent much of the day there and later remarked how important the trip had been to her.

**Christopher Reeve's biggest concern about the film was the ending, and whether the audience would believe that the actor who just played Superman could die of a broken heart.**

*Somewhere in Time* was filmed entirely on Mackinac Island, except for four days in Chicago, where Richard's apartment, the library scene and the driving shot on Lake Shore Drive was filmed.

**A huge wrap party was thrown on the lawn of the Grand Hotel following the completion of filming. The entire cast and crew had a picnic and many of them ended up in the pool, fully clothed.**

Father Marquette Park, located just below Fort Mackinac, was once used as a vegetable garden by the fort's soldiers in the 1800s. The park is also the same spot where actor Christopher Plummer would play folk music on his guitar when they weren't filming.

**All the actors had bicycles for their own personal use around the island with license plates that read "Somewhere in Time." Christopher Reeve also had his own personal four-person plane on the island and he would take mini trips in the evening when not filming.**

The moment when Richard Collier first sees the portrait of Elise McKenna in the film was also the first time Christopher Reeve saw the portrait. Reeve didn't want to see it ahead of time so he could genuinely react.

**The final scene between Reeve and Seymour before Reeve's character is thrown back into his own time was difficult for Reeve to shoot as he had just learned that his girlfriend was pregnant with his first son Matthew. That day his attention was understandably elsewhere. Reeve said later, "The day we shot the picnic scene on the floor I found out, and the world found out, that I was about to be a father for the first time." Lighting equipment, props, set dressings and costumes were shipped cross country from Los Angeles in large semi-trailer trucks. At St. Ignace, the semi-trailers were placed on barges for transport to the island. Trucks weren't allowed to go faster than a person could walk, so a man would walk in front of them whenever they moved to various locations. Most transport was done before dawn and after midnight so as not to interfere with bicycle and carriage traffic.**

John Barry's soundtrack for *Somewhere in Time* is his all-time best selling score, outselling all his other soundtracks put together. The production couldn't afford Barry but Jane Seymour, a longtime friend, talked him into accepting a percentage of soundtrack sales—a first in his musical career.





The Michigan Film and Digital Media Office (MFDMO) was created in 1979 to assist and attract incoming production companies and to promote the growth of Michigan's indigenous industry. Since its inception, the MFDMO commissioner has been responsible for implementing a program that lives within the parameters of Michigan law and works to ensure the program runs efficiently and effectively. Today, the MFDMO is working diligently to guarantee the film and digital media program accomplishes key results of private investment and workforce development by encouraging high wages, high-tech jobs and talent retention.

*Somewhere in Time tour is the sole property of the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office.  
Special thanks to Janet Kasic of Circle Michigan for content creation.*

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